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Arsenal's title hopes in tatters



THE GAME

Sir Rocco Forte
'We are back to declinism'
Times2

Erdogan on the brink as both sides dispute Turkish voting

Hannah Lucinda Smith Istanbul

President Erdogan's political future and Turkish democracy both appeared to be hanging in the balance last night after an election marred by claims of manipulation of the count.

Anadolu, the Turkish state news agency, was initially giving Erdogan an outright victory with more than 50 per cent of the vote. But its tally was disputed by the opposition, who were conducting their own counts and claimed that neither Erdogan nor his rival, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, had done enough to win outright in the first round.

Erdogan's AK Party contested every ballot box won by the opposition, meaning that those votes were not added to the total appearing on the televised count. Despite less than half of votes having been counted and confirmed by the higher electoral board, the body responsible for verifying results, Erdogan's supporters rushed to party headquarters in cities and on to the streets to celebrate victory.

Kilicdaroglu urged monitors not to leave the polling stations, vowing: "I will not sleep tonight." Hundreds of thousands of volunteers had been observing polling stations across the country.

Anadolu's results later showed Erdogan's share dipping below 50 per cent, meaning the election will go to a second round on May 28. Shortly after midnight, Kilicdaroglu accused the AKP of "using objections to block the system".

One ballot box, in the Ankara district of Cankaya, had been recounted 11 times. Crowds waited at polling stations across the country into the early hours of the morning.

Should Erdogan, who has been in power since 2003, win another five years his opponents fear that he will remove the country's last democratic checks and balances.

Inflation boosts vote, pages 26-27

Britons will forget how to work, says Braverman

Home secretary insists migration must be cut

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

The government must reduce immigration before the general election because Britain has become too dependent on foreign labour, Suella Braverman will say today in a warning shot to cabinet colleagues blocking proposals to reduce numbers.

In a speech to be given in London, the home secretary says that there is "no good reason" why British people cannot be trained to fill vacancies for workers such as lorry drivers and butchers. She warns that Britain risks "forgetting how to do things for ourselves" if net annual migration remains at hundreds of thousands.

Braverman hits back at her critics by insisting that it is "not xenophobic to say that mass and rapid migration is unsustainable" because of the pressure it puts on housing supply, public services and community relations.

She also says that more must be done to improve integration and that migrants allowed to settle in the UK must play their part by speaking English and embracing British values. Integration should be "part of the quid pro quo".

Braverman is the headline speaker at the National Conservatism Conference (NatCon), which has been organised by a right-wing American think tank to discuss the future of the Tory party.

The conference will pose a fresh challenge to Rishi Sunak's leadership after the party's dire local election results, with a string of prominent Tory MPs giving speeches setting out their own visions. Danny Kruger and Miriam Cates, two emerging leaders of the Conservative right, will call on the party to focus on core Tory topics such as lower immigration, tougher sentences and a return to family values.

Jacob Rees-Mogg, the former business secretary, will use a speech at the conference to attack Jeremy Hunt's expansion of childcare support, labelling it "fundamentally anti-Conservative".

Braverman's comments are carefully timed, coming days before official data is expected to show that net migration has reached another record high. Analysis by the Centre for Policy Studies suggests that net migration was between 650,000 and 997,000 last year, and that the Home Office is braced for it to reach a million this year. Net migration hit a record 504,000 in the 12 months to June last year despite Sunak's pledge to reduce overall immigration.

In her speech Braverman says: "We need to get overall immigration numbers down. And we mustn't forget how to do things for ourselves. There is no good reason why we can't train up enough HGV drivers, butchers or fruit pickers. Brexit enables us to build a high-skilled, high-wage economy that is less dependent on low-skilled foreign labour. That was our 2019 manifesto pledge and what we must deliver."

Her comments will be seen as a warning shot to cabinet colleagues who have

Continued on page 2

JEFF MOORE/PA



Mother's pride Kate Winslet and her daughter Mia Threapleton celebrate at the Bafta Television Awards, where I Am Ruth, in which they both starred, was named best single drama. Winslet, 47, also picked up the leading actress award. Page 3

London to Sydney in two hours (via space)

Kaya Burgess Science Reporter

Holidaymakers will be able to fly from London to Sydney in less than two hours within a decade by travelling via space, experts at the Civil Aviation Authority have suggested.

The CAA is funding medical studies into the effects of suborbital spaceflights, in which tourists would be blasted into space briefly before descending to their destination in a fraction of the time taken by conventional flying. Conventional flights from London to Sydney take about 22 hours.

At present suborbital flights, such as those offered by Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic and Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin, cost more than £350,000 per seat. However, regulators believe that they will cease to be the preserve of super-rich thrill seekers and become an intercontinental travel option "accessible to anybody".

"Point-to-point travel [via space] is definitely not science fiction, it is being worked on," Dr Ryan Anderton, a consultant in aviation and space medicine for the CAA, said.

He added that the government and UK Space Agency would be involved in the flights, saying: "My understanding is there are people knocking at the door asking about this. So [it will happen] a lot sooner than people think … certainly less than ten years."

A CAA-funded study of people aged 32 to 80 found that most coped well with the G-forces involved in suborbital spaceflights. The findings were published in the journal Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance.

Buckle up for blast-off, page 13

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VISIT…

LANZAROTE Caliente.com

Today's highlights

7.20am **Nigel Huddleston**, trade minister
8.30am **Lord Dannatt**, former head of the army
8.45am **Sadiq Khan**, mayor of London
2pm The film-maker **Nick Broomfield**, right, discusses his new documentary about Brian Jones, the creative genius behind the Rolling Stones
3.35pm The DJ and broadcaster **Annie Mac** on her new novel The Mess We're In



TIMES RADIO
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TODAY'S EDITION

Hospitals 'must run GP service'

Hospitals should employ GPs and take over local practices, Sajid Javid, the former health secretary, writes in The Times today in a call for fundamental reform to the model of primary care, under which surgeries work as independent businesses. **Page 4**

King won't live in the Palace

The King is likely to avoid moving into Buckingham Palace and may open it to the public all year round, according to royal historians and biographers who said that Charles may also use Balmoral as an office rather than as a residence. **Page 5**

Kittens scam officer jailed

A former British Transport Police officer and her boyfriend have each been jailed for more than three years over a £280,000 scam in which they bought kittens for as little as £50 and sold them on sick and dying for more than £1,500. **Page 9**

COMMENT

All children are born into some parental dream. Some things matter, others just seem to.

LIBBY PURVES, PAGE 23

Berlin's €3bn of arms for Kyiv

Germany will send arms worth almost €3 billion to Ukraine, including air defence systems and tanks, it was announced during a visit to Berlin by President Zelensky, who promised not to use western weapons to attack Russian territory. **Page 28**

Alert over BBC licence upgrade

A project to update the technology behind the BBC's licence fee is behind schedule, over budget and considered to be in a critical state by Capita, the outsourcing company which agreed a five-year deal with the broadcaster worth £456 million. **Page 31**

Chelsea set to land Pochettino

Mauricio Pochettino is set to fly to London this week to sign a three-year contract to become the new head coach at Chelsea after agreeing at the weekend to be the successor to Graham Potter, who was hired in September on a five-year deal. **Page 58**

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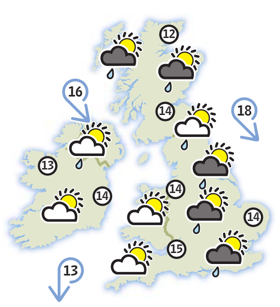
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THE WEATHER



Sunny spells and a few scattered showers, mainly in the north and east. **Full forecast, page 47**

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Aircraft diverted and runway closed in Gatwick drone alert

Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent

Gatwick closed its runway and flights were diverted after a drone was seen near the airport yesterday afternoon.

Twelve planes, including two declaring emergencies because they were low on fuel, had to divert to other airports while the police investigated.

Operations at the airport were suspended just before 2pm after reports of a drone flying near the perimeter, although its presence was not confirmed.

Gatwick is the world's busiest single-runway airport, so even short closures cause big problems. The runway reopened after less than an hour, but departures and arrivals were disrupted. Diverted planes were expected to return to the airport.

A spokesman for Gatwick said: "Passenger safety is the airport's absolute priority and, following established procedures, operations at London Gatwick were suspended temporarily at 1344, while investigations into the sighting of a suspected drone close to the airfield took place.

"These investigations have now completed and the airfield reopened at 1435. Twelve inbound aircraft were diverted to other airports during the investigation, however we expect many of these to return to London Gatwick today."

British Airways, easyJet and Tui flights were among those diverted to Luton, Southend, Stansted and Bristol.

Disruption to flights were expected to last until the end of the day's operations. Passengers reported being stuck on planes waiting to taxi and take off for more than an hour.

Last week it emerged that an easyJet plane had missed a drone by 16ft, about 5,000ft over the Sussex countryside. The A320 plane had just taken off from Gatwick bound for Basel, Switzerland.

A report by the UK Airprox Board, the official body for assessing near misses, found that pilots initially thought the object was a bird before concluding it was a drone.

The pilots told air traffic controllers who put out a warning to other planes leaving Gatwick. It is believed that the drone may have been flown by someone wanting to get dramatic video of a passenger aircraft flying past.

In December 2018 flights in and out of the airport were disrupted by what was thought to be a drone for three days and more than 1,000 were cancelled, involving 140,000 passengers. The incident was never explained.

Sussex police were criticised after arresting an innocent couple and causing confusion by suggesting that there may not have been a drone, before swiftly correcting the statement.

Afterwards the government introduced new legislation to extend no-fly zones around airports from 0.6 miles to three miles.

People who recklessly or negligently endanger an aircraft with a drone can face up to five years in prison.

It is not known if a drone was at Gatwick on Sunday, but airports must suspend operations if there is a suspected sighting.

● Thousands of people travelling from London to Paris by rail had their trains cancelled because of strikes in France. Four trips from St Pancras to Gare du Nord were cancelled yesterday afternoon and evening, and four were cancelled in the other direction.

Eurostar told passengers: "Due to short notice industrial action in France we have had to cancel some trains today."

Expect energy bills to fall next month, says Shapps

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Energy bills should fall within six weeks, Grant Shapps has predicted.

The energy secretary acknowledged that while wholesale prices were returning to "normal" levels, households had yet to see that reflected in their bills. The wholesale price of gas peaked at about £6 per therm but is at 76p per therm.

Shapps said that households should begin to see the effects of lower wholesale prices on their bills this summer.

He told *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg* on BBC One: "What we're starting to see, or have seen on the wholesale price, those energy prices falling below that cap and getting back to more … normal prices.

"Now, people haven't seen all that benefit, much of it or even any of it yet, but about another six weeks, the summer, that should start to feed into people's electricity bills."

However, Greg Jackson, chief executive of Octopus Energy, speaking on the same programme, said the UK needed to treat energy security as a national emergency as Germany had after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which caused the record rise in bills.

He said Britain needed to "unleash tens of billions of dollars in investment" to build renewable energy facilities.

Shapps defended the government's record, saying that it had increased the proportion of renewable and nuclear power in the UK from 7 per cent in 2010 to 57 per cent.

He said the government was putting long-term plans in place that would give Britain the energy security that did not exist before the invasion, which caused the record increase in bills.

Shapps acknowledged major challenges in terms of connecting renewable energy sources to the power grid.

He said: "We need to build in terms of connections to our grid in the next six, seven, eight years as much as we've done for the last three decades. So there's a massive challenge — we're almost a victim of our own success in having added so much energy to our grid, that we now have this massive challenge."

Last month, Shapps predicted that by the summer households would be able to return to the kind of switching deals that resulted in bills falling. Since the Ukraine war began, there have been no deals available below Ofgem's price cap as a number of small suppliers collapsed because they failed to plan for soaring energy costs.

UK eyes new Swiss trade agreement

Matt Dathan

Britain and Switzerland will open talks today on a new free trade deal as the government attempts to bounce back from a row with Tory MPs over scrapping EU laws.

Kemi Badenoch, the trade secretary, will fly to Berne for talks with Guy Parmelin, of the Swiss federal council. The government hopes to update its agreement, which is effectively a rollover deal from when Britain was an EU member. Most of Britain's exports to Switzerland are delivered electronically but the existing deal was signed in 1972, before the advent of the internet, and does not cover investment, digital or data, the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) said.

Badenoch said: "As two of the world's leading service economies, there's a huge prize on offer to both the UK and Switzerland by updating our trading relationship."

The DBT hopes that the new deal could lower tariffs on UK exports to Switzerland, which it says could reduce annual duties for British businesses by about £7.4 million.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Braverman's warning

stood in the way of proposals that she drew up to reduce immigration.

Braverman put plans to the cabinet that would increase the minimum salaries for companies employing foreign workers and make it harder to bring spouses to the UK. Last year 268,000 work visas were issued. They brought 155,000 family members with them.

Gillian Keegan, the education secretary, has blocked proposals to reduce the time that foreign students can stay in the UK after they finish their course.

Braverman had submitted plans to the cabinet that would reform the graduate visa route, which at present allows international students and their dependants to remain without any requirement to get a job for up to two years. The home secretary wanted to reduce the period to six months, after which foreign graduates would have to obtain a work visa by getting a skilled job or be forced to leave the UK.

Keegan opposed the policy, according to government sources. "The proposal is no longer active, she killed it off," one said.

Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, is understood to have backed Keegan's opposition on the grounds of the economic value that foreign students contribute to the economy.

Instead, the Treasury and the Department for Education have agreed to limited plans that will restrict the ability for foreign master's students to bring their family to the UK while they study. The move is designed to reduce the number of dependants accompanying foreign students, which has risen more than eightfold since 2019.

In a sign of public splits on immigration policy, Grant Shapps, the energy secretary, refused to say that immigration was too high, telling Sky News that Brexit gave the party control of immigration and that foreign workers were important to fill labour shortages. He said the party should be "proud" of its record on legal migration, noting that last year's figures were inflated by Ukrainian refugees and Hongkongers fleeing China's security laws.

Politics, pages 6-8
International students are good for Britain, leading article, page 25

And the Bafta for best tea party ...

Paddington Bear's encounter with the Queen is voted most memorable moment, **Alex Farber** writes



Winners included, clockwise from left: Ben Whishaw, the voice of Paddington; Kate Winslet; Sir Mo Farah, who attended with his partner, Tania; Anne-Marie Duff; Siobhan McSweeney; and Lenny Rush

It was a night when an Olympic champion and one of Britain's greatest living actresses were among stars recognised for their contribution to television.

But for the viewing public, there was nothing to beat an unexpected meeting between Queen Elizabeth II and a small bear from Peru.

Paddington Bear's tea party with the Queen as part of last summer's Platinum Jubilee celebrations was named the winner in the memorable moment category at last night's Bafta TV awards.

Voted for by the public, Simon Farnaby, 50, who played a footman in the sketch, paid tribute to the late Queen as he picked up the Bafta.

"Of course, the person that most deserves this award is no longer with us," he said. "Paddington and the Queen had a joyful jubilee tea that day but it was also perhaps a farewell because the person who most deserves it is no longer with us to receive it. We can only accept it on her behalf and say thank you ma'am and goodbye."

It was the first of two wins for Ben Whishaw, the voice of Paddington. He also won best leading actor for his portrayal of Adam Kay in BBC1's medical drama *This is Going to Hurt*.

Whishaw, 42, said: "The Queen did a brilliant job of acting. Most of the time there's just a stick with a white tennis ball on the end of it and that's quite hard to do." *Platinum Jubilee — Party at the Palace* also won for live event coverage.

Last night's ceremony also saw powerful speeches by Sir Mo Farah, 40, and a double win for Kate Winslet.

The BBC led the field with a total of 13 victories. The Olympic champion won single documentary for *The Real Mo Farah* in which he revealed he was trafficked to the UK as a boy. "It's something no child should have to go through. I hope telling my story will show others they're not alone," he said.

Winslet, 47, was named best actress for her performance in the Channel 4 drama *I Am Ruth*, in which she played a concerned mother watching her teenage child (played by Winslet's daughter, Mia Threapleton) become consumed by the pressure of social media.

"To the people in power who can make change: please criminalise harmful content. We don't want it. We want our children back," she said. "And to youngsters addicted to social media and its darker sides: this does not need to be your life."

Sharon Horgan, creator of Apple TV's black comedy *Bad Sisters* also used the show's double win, including in the drama category, to voice her "solidarity" with the writers on strike in the United States. "It all begins and ends with them, so we are in solidarity with our Writers Guild America brothers and sisters," she said.

Horgan said she was "right in the middle of the Venn diagram of Irish women of a certain age" after Siobhan McSweeney, of *Derry Girls*, started proceedings by ignoring the advice she had been given not to be too political.

"To the people of Derry, I've been impressed with how you encompass the spirit of resilience despite the indignities and stupidity of your so-called leaders in Stormont, Dublin and Westminster. In the words of Sister Michael — it's time they started to wise up."

The BBC1 series *The Traitors* won the reality and constructed factual award, with the host Claudia Winkleman instantly reneging on her promise that her parents could have her trophy. "You can just touch it," she said.

Stars of the small screen

Female performance in a comedy programme Siobhan McSweeney — Derry Girls

Reality and constructed factual The Traitors

Short-form programme How To Be A Person

Specialist factual Russia 1985-1999: Traumazone

Daytime The Repair Shop: A Royal Visit

Sports coverage Uefa Women's Euro 2022

Male performance in a comedy programme Lenny Rush — Am I Being Unreasonable?

Entertainment Programme The Masked Singer

Supporting actress Anne-Marie Duff — Bad Sisters

Current affairs Children of the Taliban

News coverage Channel 4 News: Live In Kyiv

Single drama I Am Ruth

Mini-series Mood

International Dahmer-Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story.

Features Joe Lycett vs Beckham: Got Tour Back At Xmas

Drama series Bad Sisters

Factual series Libby, Are You Home Yet?

Single documentary The Real Mo Farah

Comedy entertainment programme Friday Night Live

Soap and continuing drama Casualty

Live event Platinum Jubilee — Party at the Palace

Entertainment performance Claudia Winkleman — The Traitors

Special awards David Olusoga

P&O Cruises Memorable moment - Platinum Jubilee — Party at the Palace Paddington meets the Queen

Supporting actor Adeel Akhtar — Sherwood

Leading actor Ben Whishaw — This Is Going To Hurt

Leading actress Kate Winslet — I Am Ruth

Scripted comedy Derry Girls

Fellowship Meera Syal

Tears and glitz but TV's big night was sadly short of drama

Carol Midgley
Comment

Kate Winslet and Ben Whishaw took the top gongs at a lacklustre Bafta Television Awards but you could argue it was the late Queen who really cleaned up. She "won" in two categories: best live event for *Platinum Jubilee: Party at the Palace* and memorable moment for *Paddington Meets the Queen* — and certainly had a better night than *The Responder*, an excellent drama nominated in six categories but as far as I could see winning zilch. Imagine having to sit through the stilted, tepid banter of the hosts, Rob Beckett and Romesh Ranganathan, for all those hours for zero reward. Whishaw was a worthy winner for *This is Going to Hurt* but Martin Freeman's Scouse accent was so good in *The Responder* it deserved a medal of some sort.

For all the glitz and glamour in that room it was a strangely underpowered night. Unlike last year, when many were baffled by some of the judges' decisions (*It's a Sin*, nominated for seven awards, won nothing. Weird), they seemed to play it safe. Some might have been surprised that Daisy May Cooper was passed over for best female performance in a comedy for the lively *Am I Being Unreasonable?* but no one could argue that Siobhan McSweeney doesn't deserve it for her performance as Sister Michael in *Derry Girls*. *Bad Sisters* (Apple TV) was a popular winner of best drama series, beating *Sherwood* (BBC1), *The Responder* (BBC1) and *Somewhere Boy* (Channel 4).

***Mood* was probably a surprise winner of best mini-series to those who don't watch BBC3, but it beat *This is Going to Hurt* and *The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe* on ITV.**

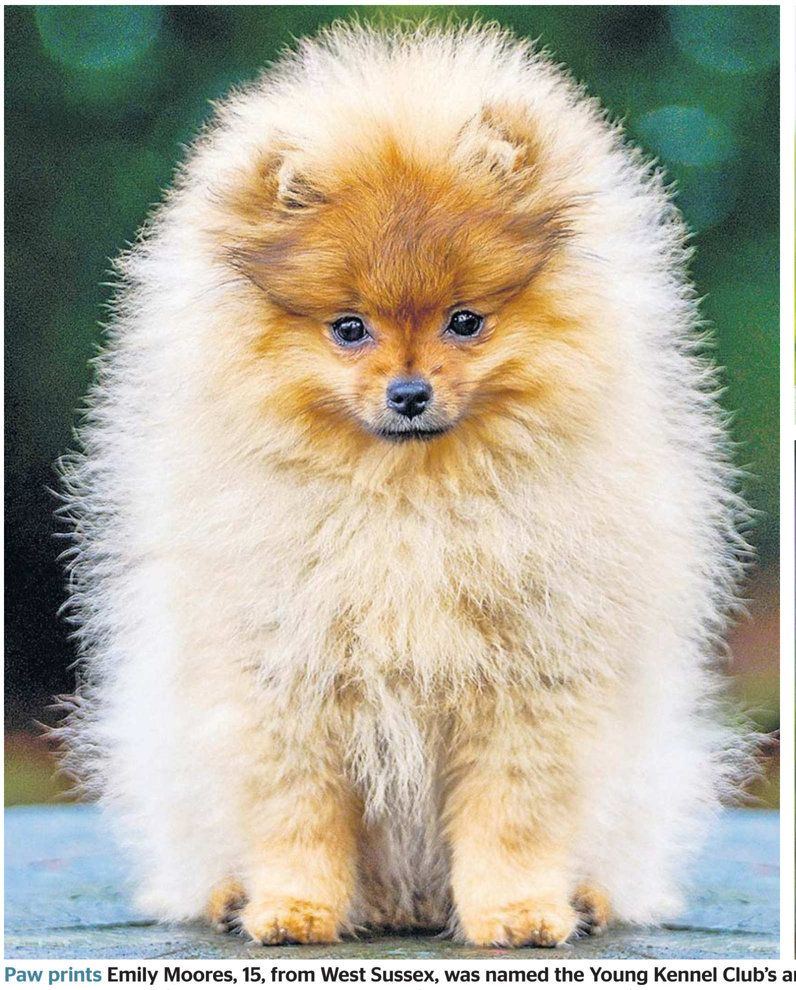
There will be incredulity in some quarters that *Dahmer — Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story* beat the wonderful *The White Lotus* (Sky Atlantic) and *The Bear* (Disney+) in the international category. Very odd.

Probably the most popular winner was Lenny Rush, whose performance in *Am I Being Unreasonable?* is standout. The moment when his parents went backstage to kiss him was proper tear-jerking stuff. Which reminds me, why have the hosts telling the actors to keep their speeches short because "no one cares" (true; no argument there) but then have a third host backstage interviewing them in what looked like a tent?

But Winslet deserved the best actress gong in the amazing *I Am Ruth* (which also won Best single drama) even if I felt sorry for Billie Piper missing out for *I Hate Suzie Too*. Winslet said she wanted to cut her Bafta in half and share it with her daughter, Mia Threapleton, with whom she starred, and couldn't read her speech without her glasses, saying "I'm going blind, I'm so old now." She is, FYI, 47.

I've just remembered the most shocking revelation of the night: David Tennant saying he had never been nominated for a Bafta. And this is the man who starred as Dennis Nilsen in the brilliant *Des*. How can Bafta explain that?

EMILY MOORES; CHLOE MCLELLAN; RACHEL DUTTON/KENNEL CLUB/BAV MEDIA







Paw prints Emily Moores, 15, from West Sussex, was named the Young Kennel Club's artist of the year for her photo of Summer, a pomeranian; also in the frame were Chloe McLellan with her shot of a border collie called Nyah performing at the Worcester Agility Show, and Rachel Dutton with her picture of Pixie, a toy poodle

Quintagram® No 1628

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Cooked in oil (5)

_ _ _ _ _

2 Room (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Suddenly stop moving (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Respired air (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

5 Ingrained (4-6)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	B	C	D	D	D
E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
E	E	F	F	H	I	P	P
R	R	R	S	S	T	T	Z

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UK serviceman killed

Four people have been held on suspicion of murder after a British serviceman aged 25 was found dead in Sweden. He had been on HMS Albion, a Royal Marines transport ship, for the Aurora 23 exercise that involved 26,000 personnel from 15 nations. The Expressen newspaper said the man was found at a house in Stockholm. "We are aware of an incident," the MoD said.

Hospitals could hire GPs to bring health system together, says Javid

Eleanor Hayward Health Correspondent

Hospitals should be given incentives to employ GPs directly and take over local practices, Sajid Javid, the former health secretary, has said.

Writing in The Times, Javid called for "fundamental reform" to the traditional model of primary care, under which GP surgeries operate as independent businesses. He said the current system led to a "disconnect" between NHS hospitals and family doctors, which hampers efforts to tackle chronic diseases.

Javid said GPs and hospitals should be "working together much more closely" in communities, with NHS trusts encouraged to employ GPs on salaries.

"Taxpayers foot the bill whether GPs are contracted or employed directly by the NHS," Javid said. "But the ability to drive better co-ordination to support patient care, alongside greater strategic planning on prevention, are tangible benefits. The government should now commission a comprehensive independent review into primary care to assess what change is required."

Under the partnership system, practices are owned by self-employed GP partners who hold contracts with the NHS to provide services. Javid, who was health secretary from June 2021 to July last year, criticised the government's decision to abandon a ten-year dementia strategy aimed at speeding up diagnosis and preventing four in ten cases.

He said he was disappointed that Steve Barclay, the health secretary, abolished the scheme in favour of a single "major conditions strategy".

Javid said tackling dementia was a "moral imperative and an economic necessity", with 1.6 million people in the UK predicted to have the disease by 2040. He said this spread was "not inevitable" if long-term strategies were devised to drive improvements in prevention, treatment and early diagnosis.

In the past year two drugs, donanemab and lecanemab, have been shown to slow progress of Alzheimer's disease in clinical trials. Experts have warned that the NHS will not be able to deliver the drugs to those who need them without improvements to diagnosis because checks are need to determine if patients are eligible, and the treatment works best if cases are detected early.

Only 62 per cent of those older than 65 with dementia in England have a formal diagnosis, leaving about 325,000 patients unable to get treatments and social care support. A study released by the Alzheimer's Society to mark Dementia Action Week this week shows one in three people who notice symptoms of the disease do not tell anyone for more than a month.

The poll of 1,137 people who have dementia or their carers found one in four waited more than six months to speak to a medical professional. The society has launched a campaign — It's not called getting old, it's called getting ill — to encourage people to seek support in getting a diagnosis.

The survey found that confusing dementia symptoms with normal ageing was the main reason people kept silent.

● The government has announced that it is opening six NHS community diagnostic centres to help tackle record waiting lists. Up to 160 of the centres are to open across England by 2025, acting as a "one stop shop" for tests, such as ultrasounds, blood tests and CT and MRI scans. Rishi Sunak said: "I have pledged to cut waiting lists and these new community diagnostic centres will do exactly that."

With ambitious reform we may beat dementia

Sajid Javid
Comment

There are few families across the country that have not been impacted by dementia. This cruel disease is both widespread and devastating in equal measure. It takes away so much from those we love and slowly destroys lives.

Dementia Action Week is a chance to reflect on progress made in the war against it, and a reminder of what more needs to be done.

More than 900,000 people are thought to have dementia in England and Wales. It is the biggest killer in the UK and the number of people receiving a diagnosis is expected to double by 2040. The increase of a major disease is yet another significant threat to the health and care system. That makes tackling it not only a moral imperative, but an economic, health and fiscal necessity.

As I argued as health secretary, the ways in which we will dramatically improve dementia outcomes are also the ways we need to reform the health and care system. This includes delivering a long-term strategy, doing much more on prevention, unleashing life sciences innovation and backing new models of care. The importance of long-term thinking is why I announced ten-year dedicated strategies for cancer, mental health, and dementia. I was disappointed to see them recently dropped, in favour of a broader approach.

There is also increasing recognition that for too long the NHS has been viewed as a "National Hospital Service" — treating people when they are sick rather than preventing illness. Recently announced measures to increase access to primary care are a step in the right direction but we must go much further on fundamental reform. This will be critical to making progress on waiting lists and a population health-based approach and should include incentivising more salaried GP providers for the NHS. This can help drive better co-ordination to support patient care, alongside greater strategic planning on prevention.

We should also be supporting innovative leaders on the ground. Much of our success against major diseases can take place at a neighbourhood level, particularly on diagnosis. An important part of this should be new academy style NHS Trusts, where successful leadership teams share best practice.

Lastly, we must do much more to support overall research. I was proud to help double new funding towards this, but we cannot afford to hold back any available resources.

Too many people with dementia no longer have a voice. Families and charities have made loud calls for action. Now is the time for the government to listen and act.

● A longer version of this piece is at thetimes.co.uk.

Nurse leader criticised for pay U-turn

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor
Eleanor Hayward

The head of the nursing union has been accused of hypocrisy after demanding a double-digit pay rise for the profession in a U-turn on her previous position.

Pat Cullen, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, had called for her members to accept the government offer of 5 per cent but they rejected the deal and will vote on more strike action this month.

In an interview with The Sunday Times, she told Stephen Barclay, the health secretary, to reopen negotiations that "start off in double figures".

Grant Shapps, the energy secretary, told Sky News: "Pat Cullen just recently was encouraging her members to settle for the pay rise that was put on the table, that would see £5,000 go into the pockets this year of hardworking nurses … It's frankly rather confusing now that … she seems to now be coming back and saying the opposite."

A new ballot for strike action by the RCN will open on May 23. A six-month mandate expired a fortnight ago.

Jonathan Reynolds, the shadow business secretary, also criticised Cullen and said reopening talks with the RCN "isn't realistic" because other unions have accepted the government offer.

Before its annual conference in Brighton today the RCN warned that nurses were being left suicidal and in fear of being sued for patient harm in poor working conditions.

The union also said: "Hundreds of thousands of nurses voted and told the government their offer was not enough to help NHS staff and improve patient care. Senior ministers should not denigrate them but listen and act."

The Royal College of Nursing has lost all credibility, leading article, page 25

Andrew fears family 'will cut off electricity to force him out'

Dominic Kennedy

The Duke of York is refusing to leave his residence at Royal Lodge, it has been claimed.

Prince Andrew, 63, is under pressure to vacate the 30-room country house and is said to have been offered the much smaller Frogmore Cottage.

He is said to be fearful that the royal family may switch off essentials such as gas, water and electricity to get him out of the home he has lived in since 2003, sources told Daphne Barak, a journalist in the United States.

Andrew was expected to leave his house in Windsor Great Park and downsize to the five-bedroom cottage in Home Park, also in Windsor, which became free after the Duke and Duchess of Sussex moved to California.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are expected to move into Royal Lodge once Andrew vacates it.

His defiance was reported in The Mail on Sunday in an article written by



The prince moved into Royal Lodge, which is set within 98 acres, in 2004

Barak, who last year landed an exclusive interview with Ghislaine Maxwell, imprisoned for sex trafficking underage girls on behalf of the duke's late friend Jeffrey Epstein. Andrew stepped back from public duties over his friendship with the financier.

Barak was once suggested as a ghostwriter for Andrew's memoir. She has said she is "very close to the people most close to" him.

She quoted a source saying that Andrew "is so fragile. He's refusing to see anybody. This has been his family home for the past 20 years… He's worried that the royals might even turn off the utilities to get him out of there."

Andrew lives with his ex-wife, Sarah, Duchess of York, in Royal Lodge, set in 98 acres. He moved there in 2004. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the previous resident, died in the house in 2002. Buckingham Palace was reported to have initially said that he must leave by September.

The Palace declined to comment.

LESLEY DONALD; ALAMY







Charles, at Birkhall with his sons, is said to be reluctant to live at Buckingham Palace, top left, but will keep several residences, including at Sandringham

Will Charles buck palace trends by downsizing?

Jack Malvern

With more than a dozen royal residences at his disposal from London to Transylvania, the King risks being overstretched if he tries to use them all.

One royal historian suggested that Charles would be in "perpetual orbit" as he tried to split his time between castles in Scotland and stately homes in Norfolk, Surrey and Gloucestershire.

The only place that he appears reluctant to use is the one associated with the royal family around the world. Several royal biographers have suggested that while it would pain him to give up his houses at Highgrove or Sandringham, he may use renovations at Buckingham Palace as an excuse not to move in.

Hugo Vickers, a royal historian and author of biographies of the Queen Mother and Cecil Beaton, said that Charles would run his office out of the Palace and use it for state occasions but had no yearning to live there. "I think you'll find that he'll stay at Clarence House, which even [Queen Elizabeth] wanted to do, but Winston Churchill made her go to Buckingham Palace," Vickers said.

Ingrid Seward, editor-in-chief of Majesty magazine and author of multiple royal biographies, said that the King's staff were now split between the two London residences but the larger palace was not to his taste. "Maybe in the end he will have to move into Buckingham Palace, but I don't think he wants to," she said. "Buckingham Palace is so huge and impersonal and red, with red carpets and curtains. It's not his style. He may decide that it should be available to the public all year round."

Both suggested that the King's preference for smaller houses may also have implications for Balmoral. A royal source said that the King preferred Birkhall on the Balmoral estate, which has about eight bedrooms, to Balmoral Castle, which has 52. "He absolutely loves Birkhall," the source said. "I would be amazed if he abandoned that. I think it's far more likely that he will stay at Balmoral when there are prime ministerial visits but treat it like an office."

The King is also expected to continue his summer use of Castle of Mey in Caithness in Scotland, which is owned by a charitable trust of which he is president. The castle, which is usually open to the public, is closed to visitors between July 23 and August 9 this year, which indicates when the King intends to visit.

The King has access to about 30 properties owned privately, such as Sandringham and Balmoral, or owned by the Crown or the Duchy of Cornwall, which is now overseen by the Prince of Wales. Some, such as Fort Belvedere in Windsor, are rented to private individuals. Others, such as properties on the Isles of Scilly and Zalan Castle in Transylvania, are run as holiday lets.

Smaller properties provide homes for family members such as Royal Lodge, a seven-bedroom house near Windsor Castle, which is occupied by his brother Andrew, the Duke of York.

Kensington Palace functions as the London residence and offices for the Prince of Wales as well as the home of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke and Duchess of Kent and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent.

In provincial England, the King will choose between Windsor Castle, Highgrove and Sandringham but is not expected to give up any of them immediately. Charles travelled to Sandringham this week to oversee the construction of a new formal garden and is understood to be renovating the interior. He has a deep attachment to Highgrove, but the use of its gardens for a fashion shoot for the June issue of Harper's Bazaar may indicate a more public role in future.

King to strengthen Commonwealth links with Kenya trip

Dominic Kennedy

The King is reported to be preparing to visit Kenya to improve relations with the Commonwealth.

He would be returning to the country where his mother learnt she was Queen. Kenya showed its warmth towards Charles by letting its troops join the coronation procession.

The King can expect dissent from some Kenyans, however, who have demanded that he make amends for land grievances and the repression of the Mau Mau uprising. His mother was visiting Kenya in 1952 when she learnt that her father George VI had died.

Charles has visited the country four times. Kenya gained independence, joining the Commonwealth in 1963 and becoming a republic the following year.

President Ruto attended the coronation, which was shown by all major Kenyan television stations.

Julius Okoth, a social justice campaigner who wants Kenya to leave the Commonwealth, complained that people had been glued to their television sets. Activists have called on the King to return land seized when 88 families were forced out of two villages by the colonial authorities in 1952, soon after Elizabeth became Queen.

Maria Chepkwony, 88, told Nation Media Group, which is based in east Africa: "Let the son of Elizabeth correct the wrongs of the past and his rule as a king will be stable. We have lived in squalor and we will only bless him to enjoy his rule if he compensates us."

The Mail on Sunday quoted a royal insider who said the King's return to Kenya would be "poignant". The source added: "It will also be an important marker for this reign that will underline how importantly he views the Commonwealth. His Majesty wants to bring people together."

The King will go to Samoa next year for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting and visit Australia and New Zealand.

Lord Polak, a former director of the Conservative Friends of Israel, said Charles also intended to visit Jerusalem. The Prince of Wales became the first senior member of the royal family to go to Israel in 2018 during a tour that included the Palestinian Authority.

The oil used to anoint the King was harvested on the Mount of Olives and blessed by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem and the city's Anglican archbishop. Lord Polak said it was a matter of regret that Queen Elizabeth never visited Israel. "There is no doubt that Charles will be the one to break this pattern," he said.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment.

News Politics

Focus on working classes in the north, Sunak urged







Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

The Conservative Party should focus on the "values" of working class voters in the north rather than "retreating" to its traditional "affluent" supporters in the south, two emerging leaders on the right of the party will say today.

Danny Kruger, MP for Devizes in Wiltshire, and Miriam Cates, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge in south Yorkshire, will make speeches at a conference in central London that will call on Rishi Sunak to adopt bolder policies for the next election.

The prime minister will also face criticism at the conference from Jacob Rees-Mogg, the former business secretary and ally of Boris Johnson, who will say the government's expansion of childcare support is "fundamentally anti-Conservative".

The speeches will come at the start of a three-day national conservatism (NatCon) conference organised by the Edmund Burke Foundation, a right-wing US think tank, to discuss the future of the Tory party. The meeting poses a further challenge to Sunak after the party's dire local election results in which the Tories lost more than 1,000 councillors and control of 48 councils.

The prime minister will try to rally his party at a reception in the Downing Street garden tonight to celebrate the coronation.

At the NatCon conference earlier in the day, Kruger, who was Johnson's political secretary in No 10, will say the party must recognise that the 2016 Brexit referendum and the Tories' 2019 election victory represented a "turning point" in its history. It won a new demographic of voters in the "Red Wall" seats in northern England and the Midlands that have traditionally been Labour.

He is expected to say: "The referendum and the election were an instruction from the public that they expect us to govern with their interests, their values in mind. Not the values of the intelligentsia."

He will suggest that by offering a policy platform that "honours those people . . . they will vote for us again and we will win again".

This would include taking a hard line on policies such as immigration and the European Convention on Human Rights, tougher sentences on crime, investment in the armed forces and a firm stance to stop "woke issues" being taught in schools.

"Our government's loyalties must be to the people who brought us to power," he will say. "Let us not retreat to the southeast, to the managerial class, to the affluent — important as those places and those voters are."

Cates will warn that the party has yet to fulfil its 2019 election promises to deliver on the benefits of Brexit, cutting immigration and levelling up.

She will warn that the economic and foreign policies of previous Tory governments exposed the UK to "questionable foreign states and reversed our balance of trade".

Industries such as steel and broadband infrastructure have been allowed to fall increasingly into Chinese hands, she will say. This has left Britain reliant on importing cheap goods that has "robbed whole communities of the economic engine that provided quality, high status employment".

Cates will say: "Our hope must lie in a resurgent national conservatism, a conservatism that recognises and thrives on us taking responsibility to pass on prosperity — and the best of our national culture, values and traditions — from one generation to the next. A conservatism that respects and celebrates patriotism, the love of place, and aspires to status, security and belonging for all. A conservatism that was demanded — but not yet fulfilled — by the political realignment of Brexit and the 2019 general election."

Rees-Mogg will criticise Sunak's leadership in his speech, accusing the prime minister of presiding over a state that is "taking charge of more aspects of people's lives and leaving them less freedom of choice". He will point to taxes reaching their highest rate as a percentage of GDP in 70 years and Jeremy Hunt's announcement earlier this year to expand childcare support, which will offer every child 30 hours of free childcare from the end of parental leave until school age.

The member for North East Somerset will say the party should offer more policies that encourage marriage. He is expected to say: "Almost nobody is better off in tax or benefits terms through marriage in this country — that is an anti-family policy, operated by Conservatives. Support for the family is a fundamental Conservative principle."

He added: "The state will pay anybody to look after your children other than the parents of the children."

Rees-Mogg made clear yesterday, however, that he would not support any campaign for a new leader, insisting the party would be "toast" if it changed again before the next election.

Priti Patel, the former home secretary, accused Sunak of overseeing a "managed decline" of the Conservative Party at the weekend following its local election losses.

Grant Shapps, the energy secretary and ally of Sunak, played down the various criticisms from Tory MPs, however, insisting they were a sign that the party was "buzzing with ideas". He said there was a "steely determination" among the party members to win the next election.











BEN STEVENS FOR THE TIMES; JOHN SIBLEY/REUTERS; ANDREW MATTHEWS/PA

Andrea Jenkyns MP sang the anthem as flags were waved and Jacob Rees-Mogg voted at a Conservative Democratic Organisation event in Bournemouth on Saturday. Meanwhile Rishi Sunak, a Southampton fan, was watching his team get relegated

Truss given £50,000 by Reclaim backer as she heads for Taiwan

Ben Ellery

Liz Truss has been given tens of thousands of pounds in funding by an investment banker behind the Reclaim Party as she seeks to rebrand herself as a victim of the "anti-growth coalition".

The most recent declaration of interests reveals that the former prime minister was handed £50,000 last month by Jeremy Hosking, a city financier who donated £1.7 million to Vote Leave in 2016.

More recently, he was a founding donor of the Reclaim Party, the right-wing group launched by Laurence Fox, the actor turned political agitator.

The revelation comes as Truss prepares to visit Taiwan to give a speech in a move that risks inflaming tensions with China.

A source close to Truss said that she felt Britain moved too slowly to counter Russian aggression in Ukraine and is concerned that the same thing is happening regarding China. She will make a speech on Wednesday describing the growing stand-off between China and the island as "the most consequential struggle of our time". She will say that Britain must increase defence co-operation with Taiwan to protect it from Chinese aggression.

However, Alicia Kearns, the Conservative chairman of the foreign affairs select committee, said that the trip was less about constructive dialogue and "more about keeping herself relevant".

The accounts also show that Truss has received four payments of £7,500 this year from a Swedish billionaire who has been a friend of Prince Andrew for more than 20 years. Johan Eliasch, the chief executive of Head, the skiwear company, defended Andrew over the Jeffrey Epstein scandal. The financial interests register states that the money was "for staff and office costs to support me with policy".

Hosking has been at the centre of UK conservative politics for more than a decade, donating more than £6 million to campaigns. Estimated to be worth £385 million, his £1.7 million donation to Vote Leave made him the third biggest pro-Brexit campaign donor.

He also deserted the Conservatives to fund pro-Brexit causes, including Nigel Farage's Brexit Party. More recently, Hosking has funded the Reclaim Party, giving it £2.2 million.

Truss appeared at the coronation in her capacity as a former prime minister, albeit one who lasted only 44 days. Since her mini-budget sent shockwaves through the markets and she resigned from No 10, Truss has sought to rebuild her reputation on the world stage.

Last month she gave a speech in Washington at The Heritage Foundation, the conservative think tank that founded the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom. Truss used the occasion to claim her short tenure had been the result of underestimating "the scale and depth of this resistance and the scale and depth to which it reached into the media and into the broader establishment". Following her premiership the Resolution Foundation, the independent think tank, estimated that Truss and her chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng had cost Britain £30 billion.

The accounts show that Truss was also paid £65,751 for a four-hour speaking engagement in Mumbai in February, which was organised by the Indian



Jeremy Hosking gave Liz Truss £50,000 in April

media company ABP Networks, and £6,443 for a two-hour talk in Tokyo in March. While in Japan she also addressed a symposium hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, a cross-party group of legislators working towards reform on how democratic countries approach China.

UK Music gave her a ticket to the Brit Awards that included hospitality, which was valued at £1,320.

A source close to Truss said: "She did not have a chance in office to follow through on what she campaigned on during the leadership election.

"Lest we forget, she was endorsed by the Conservative membership and many of them feel strongly about this issue of China and she has every right to continue making that case.

"She linked how we respond to Beijing in Taiwan to how we did not deal with the issue of Ukraine.

"The fact is we did not act soon enough on Russia and she does not want the same mistakes to be made.

"I'll leave it to others to interpret whether she feels we are in the right place over China."

City Hall challenger puts housing first

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor
David Woode Crime Correspondent

House building is a "moral imperative" as future generations will pay the price for the government scrapping new home targets, the frontrunner to be the Conservative candidate for mayor of London has said.

In an interview with The Times, Samuel Kasumu, a former No 10 adviser to Boris Johnson on civil society, criticised Rishi Sunak for dropping mandatory targets for house building. The prime minister bowed to Tory rebels in December by dropping a pledge to build 300,000 homes a year and introducing planning restrictions.

Kasumu said he would refuse to compromise on his firm support for building more homes for "political gain" because it would be "fundamentally immoral" in the face of a housing crisis.

Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, pledged to build 116,000 affordable homes by the end of 2022 but the target was extended to the end of 2023.

Asked what he thought about Sunak's decision to ditch the government's housebuilding target, Kasumu, 35, said: "It wasn't always like this. When Boris was mayor, his mantra was 'build, build, build.' There is a moral imperative to making sure you are redoubling efforts to build houses that are vitally needed.

"Present generations are paying for the failure to build homes. Future generations will probably suffer even more. My position is clear and won't change — we need to build homes and we need to build them as soon as possible."

Kasumu suggested that the government was focusing too much on tackling illegal immigration at the expense of record numbers arriving legally. He said net migration, expected to top 700,000 this year, was unsustainable and Britain depended on foreign labour. "There were just over half a million last year, they're projected to be even higher this year. But the interesting thing about that is the majority of people who arrive on the shores arrive here legally."

He added: "My view was and remains that the big issue is not illegal immigration. The big issue is the fact that we have an over reliance on migrants [who come legally]."

Kasumu insisted that Johnson, who served eight years at City Hall, was still an asset in the capital despite his leading role in Brexit and his downfall as prime minister over lockdown parties.

Labour doesn't want to build new homes either, Will Lloyd, page 22

Rees-Mogg blames 'idle' civil service for EU laws

Matt Dathan

Civil servants are to blame for the government's U-turn on scrapping EU laws, Jacob Rees-Mogg has said.

The former business secretary said civil servants in the Department for Business and Trade responsible for scrapping leftover EU laws from the UK's statute book had been "very idle". Rees-Mogg was responsible for scrapping retained EU laws until he left cabinet last year.

He insisted the effort to abolish retained EU law was "not about whimsical Euroscepticism" but was vital to boost the economy and reduce inflation. He said erasing EU regulations, which includes measures such as the Working Time Directive, that governs how many hours staff can work, and labels on food products, for example, were important supply-side reforms that could boost economic activity and reduce the cost of living by bringing down prices.

He told Sky News yesterday that Rishi Sunak's decision to create the new Department for Business and Trade in February may also be to blame for the failure to find more EU laws to scrap.

He said: "Grant Shapps was confident whilst he was business secretary that it could be done. I was confident that it could be done and it seems to me that there has been a considerable loss of impetus in the last three months, partly possibly because of the reorganisation of the department."

Starmer wants millions of migrants and teenagers to get the vote

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Labour wants to "involve as many people as possible" in elections, a frontbencher has said, as he confirmed the party was considering plans that would give the vote to millions of EU citizens.

Jonathan Reynolds, the shadow business secretary, said that expanding the voting franchise to migrants who live in the UK permanently and lowering the voting age to 16 were proposals the party "will look at". The move would be the biggest expansion in the UK's voting franchise for almost a century.

The proposals, which were revealed by The Sunday Telegraph, would hand the vote to about 3.4 million EU citizens in Britain who have fulfilled the post-Brexit conditions for "settled status" in the UK. A further 2.6 million EU citizens have been granted "pre-settled" status, meaning the total number of additional voters as a result of extending the franchise to migrants could be more than six million. Other migrants who have settled in the UK would also be given the vote under the proposals.

Greg Hands, the Conservative Party chairman, said: "The right to vote in parliamentary elections and choose the next UK government is rightly restricted to British citizens and those with the closest historical links to our country. No other EU country allows EU citizens who are not their nationals to vote in parliamentary elections."

A Conservative Party spokesman accused Labour of trying to "rig" future elections by extending the vote to millions of people who were more likely to vote Labour.

Reynolds, however, denied the suggestion and accused the Conservatives of trying to restrict the number of people who can vote by introducing voter identification. He told Times Radio: "We are interested in strengthening our democracy. We want more people taking part in it."

Professor Sir John Curtice, the elections guru, said that the move would particularly damage the Conservatives in big cities such as London.

Fresh splits have emerged in the Labour Party over efforts to replace Britain's first-past-the-post voting system with proportional representation (PR). Andy Burnham, the Labour mayor of Greater Manchester, said that he had changed his mind on the issue and told Sky News: "I think PR would put the people much more in control."

His comments put him at odds with Starmer, who is against PR.

ELLIOTT FRANKS



Sir Keir Starmer at the Progressive Britain conference over the weekend. His party is considering the biggest expansion in the voting franchise for almost a century

Labour poised to snatch quarter of Lib Dem support at election

Henry Zeffman Associate Political Editor

Nearly a quarter of Liberal Democrat local election voters will back Labour at the general election, research by a think tank with close ties to Sir Keir Starmer suggests.

Labour Together identified mass tactical voting at the local elections, arguing that it would therefore be "nonsense" for Labour to fear losing votes next year to any party but the Conservatives.

Starmer and his supporters were buoyed by the results of the local elections this month, claiming that their projected national vote share lead of nine percentage points over the Conservatives puts Labour on course for a majority at the general election.

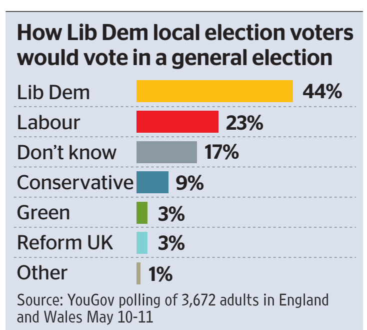
However, the Liberal Democrats also surged, with a projected national vote share of 20 per cent. Some psephologists have argued that this could leave Labour relying on Lib Dem support to form a majority government. In the aftermath of the local elections, Starmer failed to rule out striking a pact with the Lib Dems in a hung parliament.

Research and YouGov polling commissioned by Labour Together in the wake of the local elections suggests that Lib Dem voters will behave very differently in a general election.

Asked how they would vote in a general election, 23 per cent of Lib Dem local election supporters said they would vote Labour, while 9 per cent said they would move to the Conservatives. Forty-four per cent said they would stick with the Liberal Democrats, while 17 per cent said they did not know how they would vote.

Similarly, 14 per cent of those who voted Green this month said they would vote Labour in a general election — though almost as many, 11 per cent, said they would switch to the Conservatives.

Across the whole electorate, 29 per cent said they voted in the locals for the party which "best reflects my values and principles", but among those who backed the Lib Dems, this figure was 17 per cent. Instead, 21 per cent of Lib Dem voters said they had backed the party that was "best placed to defeat a party I disliked, even though they were



not my first choice". Across the whole electorate, the segment who voted for that reason amounted to 8 per cent.

Labour Together claimed that the survey of Lib Dems meant that in a general election the nine-point projected national vote lead would become a 13-point lead.

Labour Together was instrumental in Starmer's leadership campaign in 2020. Morgan McSweeney, Labour campaign director, previously ran the think tank.

Josh Simons, Labour Together's director, said: "The narrative that Labour should fear a Liberal Democrat or Green resurgence is nonsense. In the places where it matters voters are backing Labour — and when a general election comes, even more will do so. These results confirm the next election is a battle between Labour and the Conservatives. Labour must continue to be fearless in talking directly to Conservative voters."

Last month the think tank identified "Stevenage Woman" as the critical swing voter Labour needed to win over at the election. They argued that the party had already gone a long way towards winning over the "Workington Man" who helped swing Brexit and the 2019 election.

According to the poll, in the local elections, among the Workington Man segment, Labour won 35 per cent of the vote to the Conservatives' 19 per cent, with the Lib Dems on 17 per cent. Among the Stevenage Woman segment it was tighter, with Labour on 30 per cent, the Conservatives on 27 per cent and the Lib Dems on 20 per cent.

Starmer is distrustful of devolved power, Patrick Maguire, page 21

Workers promised the right to switch off

Matt Dathan

Labour's plans to protect workers from being contacted by their bosses out of normal working hours could be implemented as part of a new "code of conduct" for employers, the shadow business secretary has said.

Jonathan Reynolds said that proposals being considered by the party to enshrine flexible working in law had yet to be finalised but the party was looking at "right to switch off" laws similar to those that have been passed in France, Italy and Spain. All staff in France have had the right to disconnect from phones and laptops outside working hours since 2017.

He said that extra protections were needed to ensure people could "build a family life" as well as work in a "good job". Reynolds said that extra flexibility for workers was necessary to fix the "tightness" of the labour market while making jobs more attractive would encourage people to take jobs in sectors suffering labour shortages.

Reynolds told Times Radio: "It might not necessarily be a mandatory approach, it might be a code of conduct to begin with. But we'll look at that as part of the process."

A policy of making flexible working the default option is part of an 86-page compilation of policies that is expected to form the basis of Labour's general election manifesto and will be considered during the party's national policy forum in July.

As part of a "new deal for working people", Labour said it would "make flexible working the default from day one for all workers, except where it is not reasonably feasible".

The policy would restrict managers from contacting employees by phone, WhatsApp or email outside normal working hours.

In an interview with the Mail on Sunday, Rishi Sunak attacked the policy, saying that he was "working night and day" for the country while "Labour wouldn't even work weekends for the British public".

Sir Rocco Forte, the hotelier, branded the plans a "skivers' charter".

He wrote in the Mail on Sunday: "As someone who prides himself on being a good employer, I am not going to bother anyone unnecessarily, but if a situation requires input from a person out of the office, then it is perfectly reasonable to contact them outside normal hours."

The national policy forum, which consists of Labour members, trade unions and other affiliates, will debate the policies in July.

The programme will then be approved at Labour's annual conference in October.

Rocco Forte on Brexit, Labour and leaving the country if they win, Times2

Police officer jailed over sick kittens sold in £280,000 scam

Fiona Hamilton Crime Editor

A disgraced police officer and her boyfriend have been jailed for selling sick and dying kittens in a £280,000 scam.

Amy Byrne, 40, formerly of British Transport Police, and her partner Harry Angell, 31, bought kittens for as little as £50 and sold them for hundreds of pounds. Customers found that their new pets were malnourished, ill and covered in urine or faeces.

The couple used at least 33 fake names in adverts. Byrne told buyers she was a vet and that the kittens had been wormed and microchipped. Faked health certificates were also provided.

The couple pleaded guilty this month at Woolwich crown court to charges of fraud and breaches of the Animal Welfare Act. Angell was jailed for three years and four months, while Byrne was jailed for three years and eight months. They were banned from owning pets with no appeal for ten years.



The kittens were bought for £50 and sold for hundreds of pounds more

Hazel Stevens, prosecuting for the RSPCA, gave six examples where kittens died soon after being bought. She said: "There were human and animal victims in this. Humans were at risk of getting illnesses from the cat. Children who were excited about a new member of the family including one child who made a card to thank Amy Byrne, only to see them die days later."

One victim, who bought a male kitten for her autistic son, found shortly after Byrne dropped it off that the pet was female, underweight and had diarrhoea in her fur. It died soon afterwards.

Another victim said: "Having recently lost a cat, we were so looking forward to giving a home to a new kitten. We instantly fell in love with Elsa, who was so sleepy and cuddly when we got her.

"For the two precious weeks we had her she became part of our family. We were devastated to watch her slowly go downhill, trying to rid her of the worms she arrived with and taking her to the vet for numerous tests. She spent her last two days in the animal hospital with them trying everything to make her better but she gave up the fight."

When owners contacted Byrne and Angell after the sale they were often ignored. After a string of complaints to Trading Standards, the RSPCA and the police, a search was carried out at the couple's home in Bexleyheath, southeast London, on August 26, 2021. Seventeen kittens were found and a vet judged that six of them were suffering.

During the raid, Byrne and Angell tried to dispose of their mobile phones. Angell jumped out of the window and threw his phone in the garden. Byrne carried out a factory reset of hers.

Angell's phone was recovered and revealed hundreds of images of kittens, inquiries about adverts and complaints from customers. The couple found adverts for cheap kittens online, gave the cats flea treatments and sold them on.

On one occasion Angell bragged about how he bought two kittens for £75 then sold them for £600 each the next week. Stevens said analysis by the RSPCA showed that the couple intended to make a gain of £278,870.

Byrne worked at BTP but was sacked in January after a misconduct investigation. Cannabis plants, a half-smoked joint and a pack of cannabis seeds were found at a property she shared.



Rebekah Vardy says she was abused when she was a teenager by a man known to her family

DAVID M. BENETT/GETTY IMAGES



Jehovah's Witnesses hid my sex abuse, says Vardy

Rebekah Vardy, the media personality, has claimed she was sexually abused as a child while her family were Jehovah's Witnesses (Rhys Blakely writes).

She said followers of the religion urged her to stay silent. The claims are part of a Channel 4 documentary in which Vardy accuses the denomination, thought to have about 130,000 members in the UK, of manipulating adherents.

The 41-year-old wife of Jamie Vardy, the Leicester City striker, also investigates claims that the religion has failed to protect other children. "I've never talked about the way [sexual abuse] was dealt with by my family and by the Jehovah's Witness organisation," she added.

Vardy said she was abused over several years by a man known to her family but who was not a Jehovah's Witness. She says she told her mother and other members of the religion but they urged her not to tell the police.

"What happened to me during my childhood still affects me every single day," she said. "From the age of around 12 I was being abused. Instead of being supported, I was blamed, manipulated into believing it wasn't the best thing to take it to the police."

A meeting was called when she was about 15. She said: "It was put to me I'd misinterpreted [as] abuse a form of affection. I knew that I hadn't. I was well aware of what was right and what was wrong. And it was explained that I could potentially bring shame on my family. The impact on me was wild. I've not had much contact with my family since I left the religion at the age of 15."

The Jehovah's Witnesses organisation has denied the allegations, saying that its policies require its elders to act on allegations of sexual misconduct.

***Rebekah Vardy: Jehovah's Witnesses and Me* will be broadcast tomorrow at 10pm.**

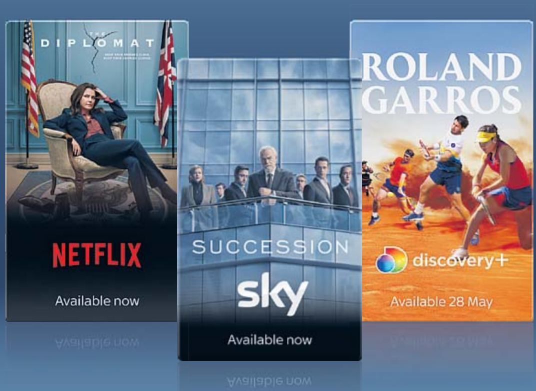
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News

FA Cup final is one big party for the women's beautiful game

Ben Clatworthy

For the security guard standing on Wembley Way, the juxtaposition couldn't be starker. "I stood here for the final of the men's Euros in 2021," he said. "It was chaos — total disorder, people fighting, people bleeding, people unable to walk because they had drunk so much. Today, for the women's game, it's like a party."

As the Wembley Arch sparkled in the sunshine yesterday, more than 70,000 Chelsea and Manchester United fans made their way to the stadium for the first sell-out Women's FA Cup Final at the national ground.

Families, youth teams and converts to the women's game were among those who descended on Wembley more than three hours before kick-off, lapping up the atmosphere.

"We wouldn't come to a men's game here," said Hayley Trantum, 36, who had her daughter Maggie balanced on her shoulders. "It's a completely different vibe. The whole day is so much more family orientated. It's just amazing to see so many people here for the women's game."

"So far the only chanting I've heard is children who are so excited," Chloe Harris, 19, from North Yorkshire, said. "My Tube [train] here was packed with families and little children holding flags. Of course you want your team to win, but it's so nice with the women's games. I've been to matches where all the fans are mixed in together."

Harris said that, despite being from the north of the country, she supports Chelsea because of Lauren James, a player she called an inspiration.

Others are converts to the women's game. Carlton Heath, who was at the game with his wife and child for their first visit to Wembley, said: "It's such a fun day out and it's more affordable than coming to a men's game."

Despite holding the Women's FA Cup final since 2015, it was the first time the event had sold out at Wembley. The bumper crowd was, in large part, attributed to the success of the Lionesses, who won Euro 22 at the stadium.

"It's been amazing since the Euros," said Dan Spaughton, 38, who was at the game with his son Oscar, seven, and daughter Ava-Jane, ten. "The fact there is a sell-out crowd here is a big statement for the future of women's football."

Official figures from the FA recorded the attendance at 77,390, a world record for a women's domestic club fixture.

Baroness Campbell of Loughborough, the FA's director of women's football, said: "It's another marker in







LUCY YOUNG FOR THE TIMES





The Women's FA Cup final was a sell-out at Wembley for the first time, with Chelsea lifting the trophy for the third year in a row. Kayleigh Heron, 18, and Chloe Harris, 19, right, are friendly rivals and Erin, five, was excited to be at the stadium, even if United failed to win

the sand that the game in this country is now alive and well — flourishing and growing."

Laura, the mother of five-year-old Erin, said: "Erin has been playing since she was 18 months. I'm just so pleased to be able to introduce her to the sport. I was scouted to play for Everton at the age of 15 but my parents said no. I had too much homework. You still hear men saying 'What do women know about football', but it's starting to change. The fact we are here today, the first time Manchester United Women have played at Wembley, shows that — and it is getting better every year."

Erin will have been disappointed on the coach back to Old Trafford, where her day had started not long after dawn. Chelsea scored the only goal, in the 68th minute. Nevertheless, for a generation of young girls, football is as much theirs in the playground as it is the boys'.

"This is how football is meant to be," the security guard said. "I hope the blokes are at home watching."

Match report, The Game, pullout

Uber wants all cabs electric in two years

Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent

Uber plans to make London its first all-electric city by the end of 2025.

The taxi firm is trying to convert its 45,000 drivers to electric cars through an education programme about their benefits.

"London is already Uber's most electrified city," said Andrew Brem, its UK general manager. "That said, I am not suggesting it's not very ambitious. It is, without a doubt. But we are focusing everything on making it work."

The company is running a series of electric car workshops with drivers and has appointed a group of "electric vehicle ambassadors" who have already made the switch to electric.

Brem said the transition goes through periods of "headwinds and tailwinds. The tailwinds are that London is supporting the move to electric vehicles: there is no congestion charge and Transport for London has decided not to approve any more taxis that are not at least a plug-in hybrid, although our goal is 100 per cent electric. Headwinds at the moment are the overall shortage of vehicles in the market [caused largely by the global shortage of semiconductors] and of course the cost of living challenge which is affecting everyone.

"It means that people are putting off decisions when it comes to making big expenditures. The last one is the price of electricity, but we are hopeful that it will come down."

The company is said to have converted 8,000 drivers to electric cars, up from 100 in 2019.

The availability of charging points is also a big barrier. In London most are in affluent boroughs such as Richmond, Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea.

The company is paying for 700 public chargers to be installed in Newham, Redbridge and Brent because of the number of Uber drivers who live in those areas. It has also established deals with leasing companies, such as Hertz, to give its drivers better rates.

It hopes the drive towards electric cars will help it curry favour with the mayor of London and Transport for London (TfL). It was granted a two-and-a-half year licence to operate in London in March last year having previously been denied a licence by TfL in November 2019. However, in September 2020, a judge upheld Uber's appeal against the decision and granted it an 18-month licence.

It is believed the drive towards electric cars, along with new safeguarding and a commitment to treat all drivers as staff with holiday pay, the minimum wage and the chance to opt in to a pension scheme, will help the company in the future.

"Will we make it [to all-electric] by the end of 2025? Yes, but I think it will be bloody difficult," Brem said.

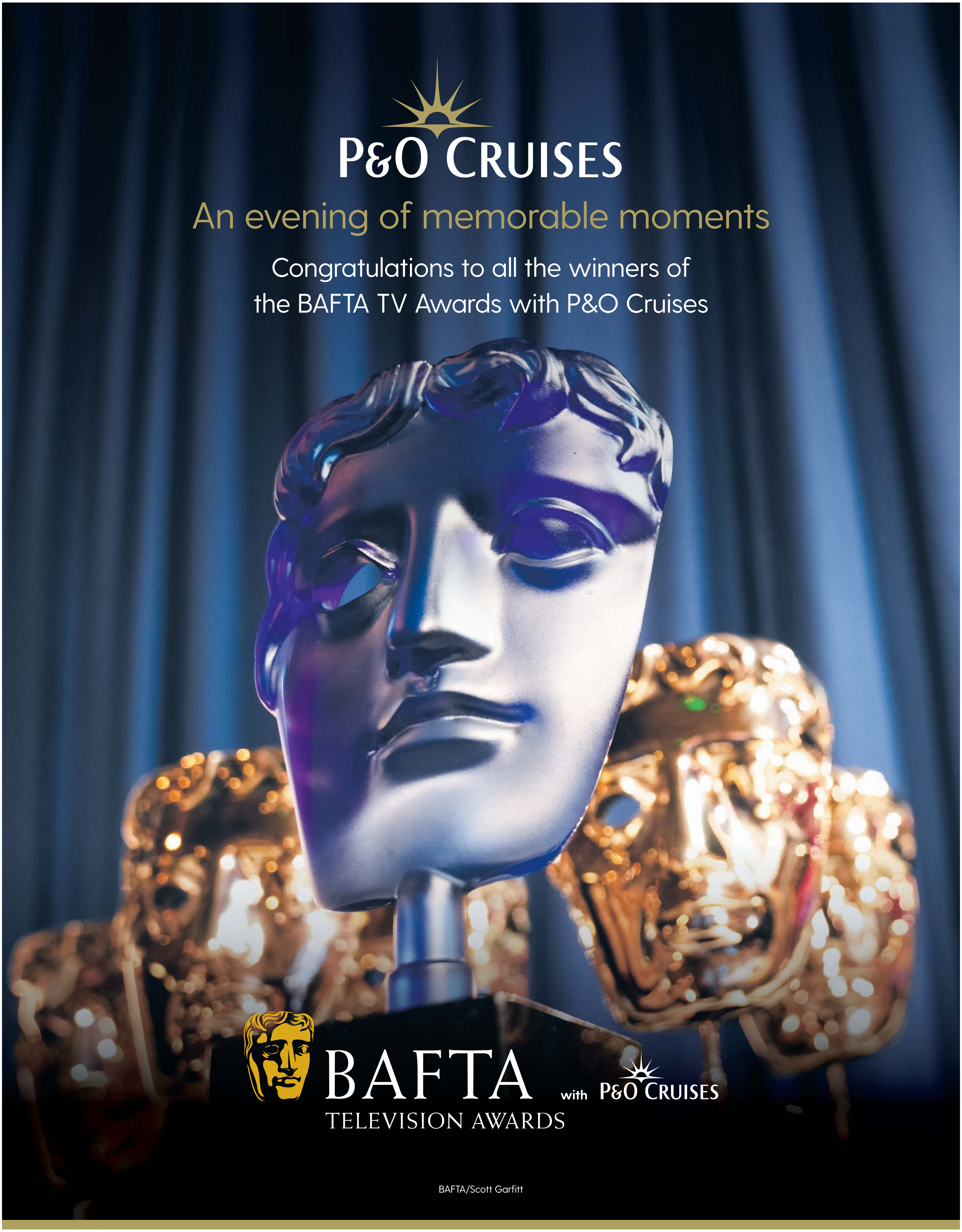
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BAFTA/Scott Garfitt

AARON CHOWN/PA; MARTIN MEISSNER/AP; ALEX BRAMALL







Loreen after winning the contest for Sweden and, far left, Mae Muller singing for Britain. Above: the aftermath of the Russian attack on Ternopil

Ukraine duo's town bombed as they sing

Russia launched a "symbolic" attack on the home town of Ukraine's Eurovision entrants minutes before they went on stage, a Ukrainian minister has said (Tom Ball writes).

Ternopil, the university town where the electronic music duo Tvorchi are from, was hit by missiles on Saturday night, injuring two people. The town is in the west of Ukraine and hundreds of miles from the front line.

Oleksandr Tkachenko, the Ukrainian minister of culture, who travelled to Liverpool for the song contest final, said that Ukrainians in the audience began receiving news alerts of the attack while the band were on stage.

"It was a strange situation because I could see all Ukrainians sitting near were watching Eurovision with one eye, but with another were looking at their phones seeing the news of the massive attack that happened just a few minutes after the contest began," he said.

"I don't have many facts at the moment, but we can only assume that it is quite symbolic that the Russians should carry this out during Eurovision."

After performing their song, *Heart of Steel* — about the troops who were besieged in the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol — Tvorchi posted on Instagram, saying: "Ternopil is the name of our home town, which was bombed by Russia while we sang on the Eurovision stage about our steel hearts, indomitability and will.

"This is a message for all cities of Ukraine that are shelled every day. Kharkiv, Dnipro, Khmelnytsky, Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Uman, Sumy, Poltava, Vinnytsia, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Chernihiv, Kherson and all others. Europe, unite against evil for the sake of peace!"

Tvorchi, who are Andrii Hutsuliak, 27, and Jeffery Kenny, 25, finished in sixth place with 243 points. They met in Ternopil in 2018 while both studying pharmacology.

Arms worth €3bn, page 28

Buckle up for blast-off in a decade

Kaya Burgess Science Reporter

Keep your seat tilted back during launch, do not unfasten your seatbelt while in space, and try to clench your buttocks as you leave and re-enter the Earth's atmosphere.

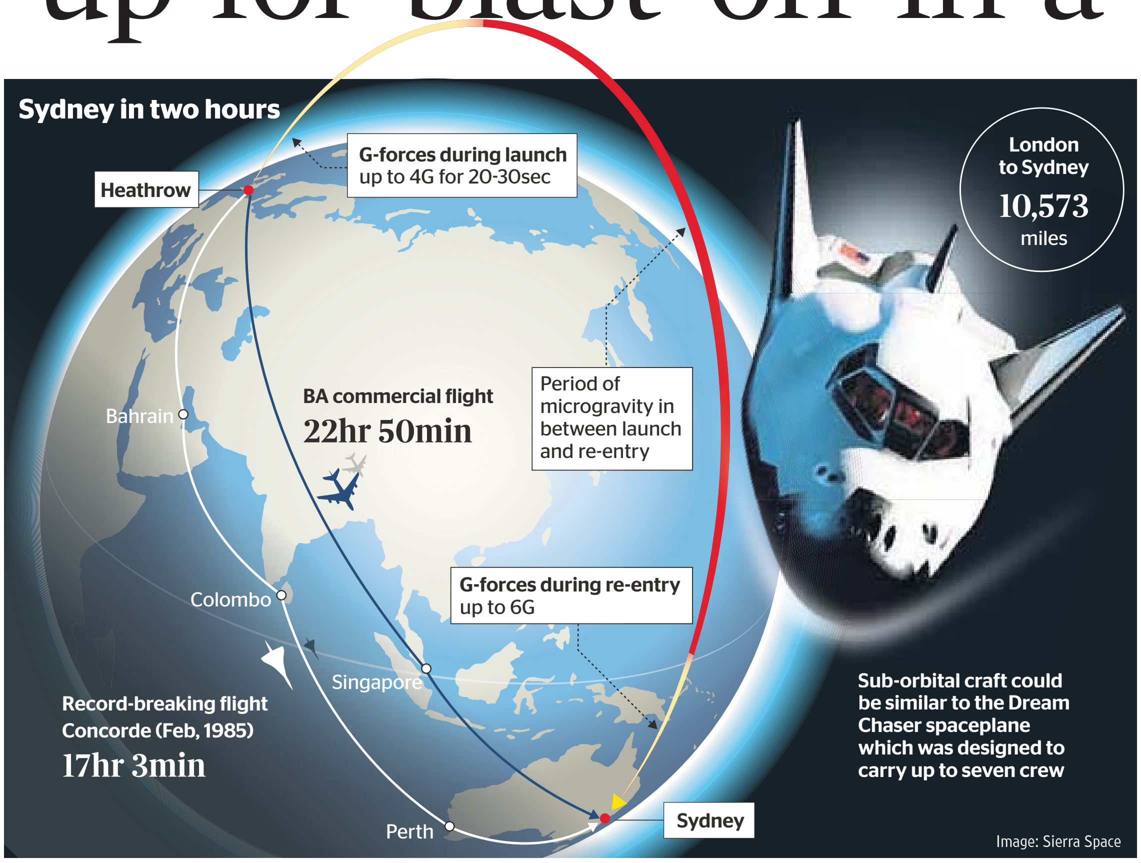
The safety briefings before long-haul flights could be very different in future, judging from research funded by the UK's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The regulator told The Times it had begun funding studies into the health impact of suborbital space flights to lay the groundwork for passenger-carrying spacecraft to take off from UK soil. Such flights could blast tourists to their destinations in a fraction of the time, turning holidaymakers into astronauts within as little as a decade.

Studies funded by the CAA, facilitated by the RAF and conducted with King's College London, have found that those taking such flights will not need to be super-fit or young, with older people potentially even better able to cope with the rigours of space travel.

A study placed 24 healthy people aged from 32 to 80 in an RAF centrifuge at Cranwell to recreate the G-forces felt during the launch and descent of suborbital rocket and spaceplane flights.

It found that G-forces can reach four times the usual force of the Earth's gravity for 20 to 30 seconds during ascent and peak at six times, or 6G, during descent for 10 to 15 seconds. These forces can create a heavy sensation on the chest, making it more difficult to breathe, and can reduce the intake of oxygen, affect the rhythm of the heart and lead blood to pool away from the brain. The study noted a rise in heart rate and blood pressure, a dip in blood oxygen and some "greying out" of peripheral vision during periods of high G-force, but found these "quickly return to normal". One participant briefly lost consciousness, but with no lasting ill effects. The effects were reduced when the chair was tilted back slightly. Dr Ryan Anderton, the CAA's medical lead for space flight, said of suborbital flights: "Physiological responses are likely to be benign for most passengers." He said that older people tend to have slightly "stiffer arteries", which could reduce the pooling of blood away from the brain. Astronauts need to be extremely fit and undergo years of intensive training. This will not be necessary for spacebound holidaymakers, but certain medical problems could make it dangerous to experience high G-forces.



"For the vast majority of people, even older people, that's not necessarily going to present a problem and there isn't a detrimental effect long-term," said Anderton. "What we're trying to do in research is determine which individuals might be more susceptible and what we might have to screen them for."

A separate study, to be presented this week, looked at steps passengers could take to minimise these effects.

"Simple measures such as tensing or squeezing your lower legs or buttocks while the onset of [high G forces] came on were sufficient to reduce [the impact]," Anderton said, explaining that this helps to maintain a strong blood flow to the brain. "We're trying to make this accessible to anybody."

The failed first attempt, in January, to launch satellites from UK soil has not halted plans to turn Britain into a spacefaring nation. Spaceport Cornwall has signed a memorandum of understanding with a US firm, Sierra Space, for spaceplanes to land in Newquay and has held talks with Virgin Galactic. Six more UK spaceports are planned.

"Human space flight from these locations is absolutely possible," Anderton said. "With companies showing interest in potentially launching from the UK … we need to be prepared [and] able to understand how our passengers, UK citizens, might be affected when they go on a suborbital space flight."

Grieving mothers call for national allergy tsar

Eleanor Hayward Health Correspondent

Two mothers whose daughters died from severe allergic reactions are calling for a "national allergy tsar" to drive reform, including speeding up ambulance response times.

Tanya Ednan-Laperouse and Emma Turay have written to Steve Barclay, the health secretary, to state that their daughters' deaths "were entirely preventable" and that action is needed to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

They have urged the government to appoint a national leader to "act as a champion for people with allergies", and increase the number of specialist allergy clinics.

Natasha Ednan-Laperouse, 15, from Fulham, west London, died in July 2016 after suffering a severe allergic reaction to a Pret a Manger baguette that contained sesame. Following her death, the law was changed to require all food outlets to provide a full ingredients list and allergy labelling on any food pre-packaged for direct sale.

Shante Turay-Thomas, 18, died in September 2018 following a severe allergic reaction to food containing hazelnuts. An ambulance took more than 40 minutes to arrive at her home in Wood Green, north London.

The girls' mothers said that a new tsar should ensure that all acute anaphylaxis cases were treated as a category 1 incident — the most urgent — by NHS ambulance services. They said there was a need to "better align primary care and hospital allergy services so that patients have a coherent NHS care pathway", stating this would "prevent avoidable deaths and ill health".

In their letter to the health secretary, the parents wrote: "As mothers, we have come together for change so that our tragedies never happen again.

"No single person has overall responsibility for the wellbeing of allergy sufferers in either the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England or anywhere else. There are no clear lines of accountability in relation to overall NHS provision of allergy care, nor for the many other areas where policy change is required. This lack of national leadership has been raised time and again by coroners at the inquests of those who died following severe allergic reactions."



Tanya Ednan-Laperouse, left, and Emma Turay, who lost their daughters Natasha and Shante after they suffered severe allergic reactions, have written to Steve Barclay, the health secretary

The call for an allergy tsar has been supported by the National Allergy Strategy Group and the charities Allergy UK and Anaphylaxis UK.

MPs are set to debate two allergy petitions, including one calling for a tsar, this afternoon in Westminster Hall.

A second petition, led by the family of Owen Carey, will also be debated in parliament today. Carey suffered a fatal allergic reaction to dairy products while eating at a popular burger chain in April 2017 during celebrations for his 18th birthday. His family are calling for "Owen's Law", which would make it compulsory for food operators to highlight the 14 major allergens on their menus in the form of standardised symbols.

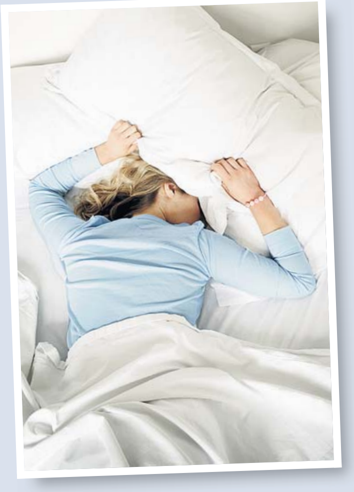
Owen's father, Paul Carey, 66, said: "It's a very small change in the law. It's not a difficult thing to do in terms of legal drafting but, by putting allergens on the menu, it also forces the responsibility up the management train. It's not going to bring Owen back — we're never going to bring Owen back — but it would mean Owen didn't die in vain."

A government spokesperson, who offered deepest sympathies to the families, said: "We have taken action to address the challenges people with allergies face by introducing a new legal requirement for food retailers and operators to display full ingredient and allergen labelling information on every food item they sell pre-packed for direct sale. Clinical advice and leadership on food allergies is provided by the clinical reference group for specialised allergy and immunology services, led by NHS England."



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IN THE TIMES TOMORROW



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Quarter of children are hiding mental struggles from parents

Eleanor Hayward

One in four children who are feeling sad or anxious hide mental health difficulties from their parents, research shows.

A new campaign by BBC Children in Need has temporarily removed Pudsey the Bear's iconic bandana to highlight the "invisible" challenges children face.

The charity polled 2,502 young people aged 11 to 18. Their replies revealed that one in three regularly felt anxious or worried about their future.

One in four said that they regularly felt the need to hide negative feelings, while one in three said they did not feel comfortable asking for help regarding feelings and emotions. One in four also said they had not talked to someone they trusted about their mental health in the past six months.

BBC Children in Need has removed Pudsey's bandana to draw attention to "invisible" problems youngsters face

Researchers also polled 2,500 parents, with half saying that there was insufficient support available for children struggling with mental health. One in six said they were not confident in recognising signs of poor mental health in their child.

Simon Antrobus, the chief executive of BBC Children in Need, said: "By recognising and acknowledging that some feelings of worry and anxiety can be hidden means early conversations, sensitively delivered with kindness and empathy, can make a real difference to a child's wellbeing and can help prevent mental health problems from becoming embedded."



Meanwhile a survey of 3,014 adults by the mental health charity Mind revealed that the cost of living crisis is making people stressed and depressed.

Half of respondents said that their mental health was being negatively affected by the financial impact of the cost of living crisis, a figure that rose to nearly three quarters for those with existing mental health problems.

Sarah Hughes, Mind chief executive, said: "The uncertainty of watching as our costs spiral can be difficult to bear and having so much to deal with can affect our mental health. Despite this, looking after our mental wellbeing is often last on our list. It's really important we all get the support we need — this is a mental health emergency that everyone is going to need help to deal with."

Mental health's about more than popping pills, Thunderer, page 22

One in ten older teenagers would like to change gender

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

A tenth of children aged 16 to 18 want to change gender or have already done so, a report suggests.

The Civitas think tank also found that more than three quarters of parents want the legal right to see all sex and relationships education materials used in school lessons.

It conducted a survey in England of 1,100 youngsters of sixth-form age and a poll of a similar number of parents of younger teenagers.

The older teenagers were asked what they had learnt at schools. Almost a third said that they had been taught that a woman can have a penis while one in five said they had learnt that a man can get pregnant. Two thirds said they knew someone who wanted to or had already changed gender.

Almost a quarter said that sex education lessons had included bondage, domination and sadomasochism. Four tenths said they had learnt that young men were a problem in society and a similar number were told Britain was a structurally racist country.

When asked what they had celebrated or commemorated at school, the most popular answers were Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Day, ahead of Black History Month, Pride or International Women's Day. The survey also asked teenagers if they had been taught about decolonisation, white privilege, unconscious bias, microaggressions, toxic masculinity or structural racism. Fewer than half answered yes.

Almost half the pupils said their schools encouraged a variety of viewpoints when discussing contentious issues on gender and sexuality and they felt comfortable expressing those views. Another third said different viewpoints were encouraged by the school but they did not feel confident sharing their views. A sixth said their school taught a single viewpoint.

More than half of pupils supported lowering the age of a gender recognition certificate from 18 to 16.

Almost four tenths of parents thought schools spent too much time teaching about race, sexuality and gender — but more than half said schools either spent the right amount or not enough time on these issues.

Two thirds of parents wanted to be able to remove their children from lessons on sex and relationships. Three quarters said they should have an unrestricted right to see the materials taught while a similar number said external groups coming in to teach about sex should be accredited.

Most agreed that children were more anxious than they used to be.

Jo-Anne Nadler, a former Tory aide and councillor who wrote the report, called for a national union of parents to support those worried about the teaching of social issues and relationships. "Parents need to be vigilant about exactly what is being taught to children and by whom," she said.

Nadler said in the report that an independent boys' school "reputed for academic rigour" attended by her sons had introduced phrases such as white privilege, unconscious bias, toxic masculinity and microaggressions into newsletters. She said schooling was vulnerable to political manipulation.

"Advocates for this movement have the best intentions but its dangers are manifold," she said. "Teaching children how to think is being replaced with an activist-led vision designed to teach children what to think."

Miriam Cates, the Tory MP who published a dossier on material being taught in schools, said the report made "worrying reading for any parent". She said: "No child is or can be 'born in the wrong body' so when one in ten teenagers says that they have or want to 'change gender' we know that something is going very wrong. This is a huge social experiment going on behind closed doors."

A Department for Education spokeswoman said: "The education secretary has brought forward an urgent review of the curriculum, which will be informed by an independent panel. The secretary is working closely with the minister for women and equalities to support schools in relation to children who are questioning their gender, following calls from schools, teachers and parents.

"This guidance will clarify schools' legal position and the importance of involving parents when making any decisions relating to their child."

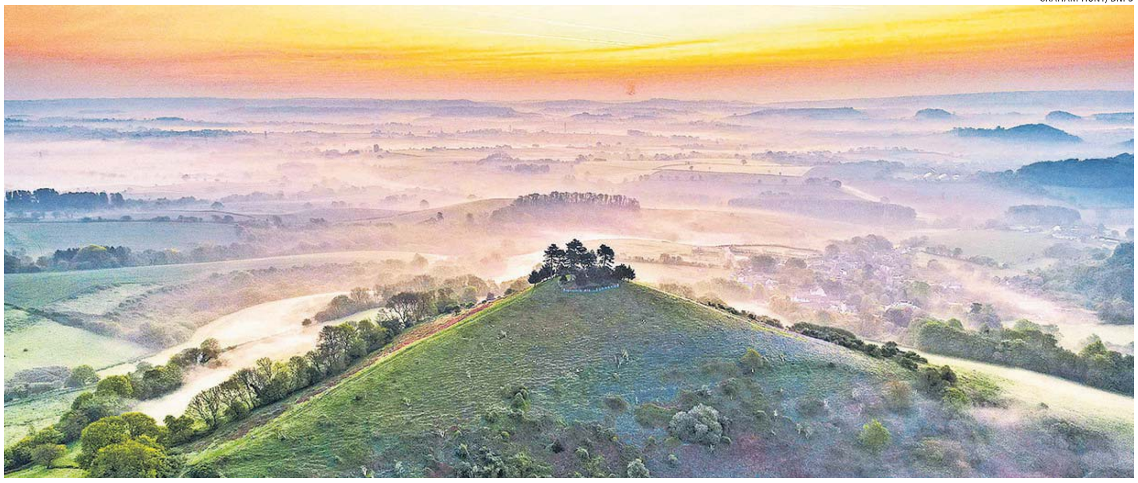
Behind the story

Sex and relationships education used to be criticised as irrelevant to today's teenagers. There are fears among some now that it has become too graphic and unregulated (Nicola Woolcock writes).

The curriculum was revamped and the government wrote to Dame Rachel de Souza, the children's commissioner for England, asking her to investigate how well it was being implemented. She was told: "The quality of RSE teaching is inconsistent, particularly when it comes to teaching pupils about sexual abuse and harassment."

Facing a shortage of specialist teachers, schools turned to external companies. It emerged, however, that some lessons were about "a galaxy of genders" and "planet non-binary". Parents who complained were told the materials could not be shared for copyright reasons or they could see them only on school premises.

Head teachers suggest there has been scaremongering. They say ministers are policy-making on the cheap — citing a lack of training support for teachers to lead lessons on relationships and sex education. This report suggests a plurality of opinion. Some parents feel too much time is spent teaching about gender and race but others want more lessons. Schools will welcome official guidance.



GRAHAM HUNT/BNPS

Morning splendour Colmer's Hill rises above the mist near Bridport, Dorset. Today brings sun and scattered showers. Page 47



News

Gove cut from honours list for leadership 'betrayal'

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Michael Gove was due to be knighted as part of Boris Johnson's resignation honours list but the former prime minister removed him after blaming him for blocking his return to No 10 last autumn.

Johnson had intended to nominate Gove for a knighthood to recognise his longstanding service as a cabinet minister since the Tories entered power in 2010. It was also seen as a way to draw a line under the tension between the pair since Gove stopped him from becoming prime minister following the 2016 Brexit referendum when he decided to stand himself. Sources said a number of other former ministers have been knighted, such as Gavin Williamson, for serving in significantly fewer roles.

However, a source familiar with his list said Johnson changed his mind after blaming Gove for persuading Kemi Badenoch to endorse Rishi Sunak in the autumn Tory leadership contest.

Badenoch's backing of Sunak effectively ended Johnson's chances of returning to No 10 and led to a flurry of other prominent ministers and MPs, including Suella Braverman, formerly a leading supporter of Johnson, to endorse Sunak. Hours later, the former prime minister announced he was withdrawing from the race. A source said Gove was subsequently taken off the list of people he had nominated for a knighthood. The claim was not denied by Johnson's spokesman.

It represents the latest episode in the Johnson and Gove drama. Johnson sacked Gove from his cabinet hours before he announced his resignation as prime minister in July. Gove had been among cabinet ministers who told Johnson he should resign and was blamed for plotting his downfall. Many saw the sacking as a long-term revenge for Gove's betrayal of Johnson in 2016.

A source also said that Guto Harri, who served as Johnson's director of communications in No 10, has had his honour downgraded to a CBE following revelations he made last week that Johnson had "squared up" to the future King after he described the government's Rwanda policy as "appalling".

Harri's other claims about Johnson's final days in No 10 included that he considered sending Sunak a video calling him a four-letter word.

The Times understands that Johnson's heavily edited honours list has finally been approved by the House of Lords Appointments Commission (Holac) after several contentious names were removed from the original list of almost 100. It is understood that the list is now with the Cabinet Office for its own vetting process but has not reached the prime minister's desk.

It is not expected to be announced until the privileges committee finalises its report into whether he misled parliament over Westminster parties.

It is understood that Paul Dacre, the former Daily Mail editor, has been removed from the list of individuals to be given a peerage. Johnson had kept Dacre on the list despite his rejection last year by the House of Lords appointments committee A spokesman for Johnson said they did not comment on honours. A spokesman for Gove declined to comment.



CORIN MESSER/BNPS



Wearing well Georgie Long, a conservation assistant, with a dress made in 1896 by the Paris designer Jacques Doucet. It was worn by Henrietta Bankes and has gone on display for the first time at her former home, Kingston Lacy in Dorset

Boris Johnson buys £3.8m mansion with 3-sided moat

Billy Kenber

Boris Johnson has bought a £3.8 million, nine-bedroom mansion with a three-sided moat in Oxfordshire.

The former prime minister acquired the grade II listed property without a mortgage, according to reports. He is said to have personally negotiated a deal at £200,000 below the £4 million asking price after twice viewing the home.

Johnson and his wife, Carrie, will live at the property with their two young children. Since leaving No 10, they have been living rent free at a £20 million London townhouse and a Cotswolds cottage provided by wealthy Tory donors.

Johnson was said to have struggled to make ends meet while serving as prime minister on an annual salary of £164,080.

He had to meet the costs of an expensive divorce and was eventually forced to pick up the six-figure bill for a lavish refurbishment of the Downing Street flat, which included £840-a-roll gold wallpaper.

Johnson's financial situation has been transformed since he lost a vote of confidence and resigned as Conservative Party leader last year, with earnings from the lucrative speaking circuit.

He earned nearly £5 million within five months of leaving No 10, including a £2.5 million advance from the Harry Walker speakers agency.

Johnson has given speeches in America, India and Singapore and been paid a £510,000 advance for his memoirs.

The country house in Oxfordshire is close to his former Henley constituency and had been on the market for four years, the Sunday Mirror reported.

It has "period features" and has six reception rooms, five bathrooms, a walled garden, a tennis court and the three-sided moat. There is also a one-bedroom guest cottage dating to the mid-19th century in the grounds and a double garage.

Bishop told to quit over sex case 'error'

Rhys Blakely

A man who was sexually abused as a teenager by a priest has called for the Bishop of Oxford to stand down, saying his position is untenable after he was found to have mishandled the case.

Matthew Ineson, who has waived his right to anonymity, was 16 in 1984 when he was raped by the Rev Trevor Devamanikkam, who took his own life in 2017, on the day he was due to appear in court after being charged with serious sex offences. Ineson had told Dr Steven



A report found Dr Steven Croft, now Bishop of Oxford, failed to act on a report of abuse

Croft, who was then the Bishop of Sheffield and is now the Bishop of Oxford, in 2012 and 2013 that he had been abused as a youth, by phone and in writing.

Ineson said Croft's failure to follow up on those reports contributed to him leaving his job as a vicar. "I lost my home, living, vocation, pension and near sanity," he said. "If Croft had any decency he would step down."

A report commissioned by the church found last week that Croft and Lord Sentamu, the former Archbishop of York, had failed to act after Ineson told them he had been abused. Sentamu disputed the findings, claiming that the report misunderstood the powers and responsibilities of diocesan bishops and archbishops. He said its finding that church officials must act on safeguarding issues regardless of church law was troubling. "Safeguarding is very important but it does not trump church law," he said.

Sentamu was criticised by other clergy for his remarks. He was required by the Right Rev Helen-Ann Hartley, the Bishop of Newcastle, to step back from his role as an honorary assistant bishop and as an active priest. She said he would be suspended until "the findings and his response can be explored".

A spokesman for the Diocese of Oxford said the situation surrounding Ineson's reports of abuse ten years ago had been complicated because the vicar was facing disciplinary procedures.

The spokesman said two letters he wrote in 2013 were copied to several people. "So the mistake the bishop [Croft] made … was to consider others were dealing with the matter," he said.

Ineson claimed that he told Croft of the abuser's name during a telephone call in 2012 but the bishop said he only learnt the priest's name when a police investigation began in 2016.

The Diocese of Oxford said: "Steven Croft has apologised to Matthew multiple times for an error."

The Most Rev Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, said that he backed the decision to suspend Sentamu.

MARCIN NOWAK/LNP



Mud larks The Maldon Mud Race took place in Essex yesterday. The event, which began in 1973, involves slogging around a course on the banks of the River Blackwater at low tide. This year James Haskey-Jones came first out of 311 participants

Cyclist clings on as moped thieves strike

Lottie Hayton

A man has been left "shaken" after he fought off four thieves on mopeds who tried to steal his folding bicycle outside an east London café.

Ben Derbyshire, the former president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, was at brunch with his daughter and son in Broadway Market, Hackney, on Friday morning when they noticed the riders.

Derbyshire, who is the chairman of the HTA Design consultancy, stepped outside to retrieve his Brompton.

He posted footage on Twitter showing himself surrounded by moped riders, one of whom tries to grab the bike. Derbyshire is seen refusing to let go of the Brompton, while also clutching his mobile phone. The riders then zoom off. In a tweet outlining the incident, he said: "I find myself in an altercation with angle-grinder wielding rustlers after my #Brompton. Fended off with the help of son & daughter and the proprietor of El Ganzo!

"Lesson 1: In extremis make lots of noise & take loads of pictures. Lesson 2: Swap Brompton for my tatty old [bike]."



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GUY BELL/ALAMY

Bowling along Former officers in "walking out dress" march past the Duke of Kent for the 100th Combined Cavalry Parade, watched by young and old in Hyde Park

Costly food here to stay, warns NFU

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

Higher food prices are here for the foreseeable future, the head of the National Farmers' Union has warned before a meeting at No 10.

The "farm to fork" talks tomorrow, attended by supermarkets, food companies and farmers, were promised by Rishi Sunak during last year's Tory party leadership contest.

Minette Batters, president of the NFU, said consumers in many other European countries were paying much more for food but "with the cost of living crisis, nobody wants to [talk] about people being forced into paying more".

She said: "I don't see the situation changing anytime soon. While the war in Ukraine continues, pressure on gas prices is going to remain higher."

Gas prices matter for farmers because natural gas is a key component in the production of fertiliser and UK electricity generation is still mostly dominated by gas plants.

Henry Dimbleby, a government food adviser, said food inflation was "baked-in" and a global problem. Food price inflation was 19 per cent in March.

Jeremy Clarkson is among those who have been invited to the meeting, according to reports. Clarkson and No 10 declined to comment.

New law 'fails victims of antisocial behaviour'

Fiona Hamilton Crime Editor

Targets of persistent antisocial behaviour have been wrongly excluded from legislation that gives new rights to victims of crime, it has been claimed.

The Victims Support charity said the definition of victims needed to be expanded in legislation to be debated in parliament today so it took account of the blight of antisocial behaviour.

The Victims and Prisoners Bill puts rights, such as having proper support after experiencing crime, on a legislative footing and sets out minimum standards victims can expect from agencies in the criminal justice system.

However, because antisocial behaviour victims are not included they will not have access to the same rights, the charity claims. The government decided after consultation to exclude antisocial behaviour, in part because so many offences were not pursued as crimes.

Alex Mayes, Victim Support's external affairs manager, said that antisocial behaviour victims should have such rights. He said: "We know the impact of antisocial behaviour. We know it leaves people terrified in their own homes, unwilling or unable to go out. People have had to move homes and move jobs."

He said it was a lost opportunity and that including antisocial behaviour would put the response to those crimes on a "stronger footing". The charity is also concerned that, while the bill was originally supposed to be aimed entirely at victims, a string of prisoner and parole measures were added this year.

It has since become the Victims and Prisoners Bill with the government promising to ban inmates from getting married and giving ministers a veto on parole. Victims Support is concerned that the focus has switched to prisoners and that victims have become an afterthought, even though the legislation is the result of a decades-long campaign for better support for them.

Writing in Times Red Box today, Diana Fawcett, the charity's chief executive, warns that the government would now spend time and energy on prisoner measures when it should be spent strengthening victims' measures.

There are also concerns about legal challenges to the prisoner aspect of the legislation, which could delay the bill.

Fawcett argues that ministers should drop the prisoner elements and pursue them separately. She writes: "There are good policies in this bill and the focus must be building on them. In particular, work needs to be done to ensure there is an enforcement mechanism in place for victims' rights. A victims bill has the potential to truly transform victims' experiences. The government made the welcome pledge to 'put victims' interests firmly at the heart of the justice system'. They deserve nothing less."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Justice said: "Public protection is our number one priority and our parole reforms will ensure perpetrators face the strictest test before they are released and that victims' voices are heard."

Anna McMorrin, the shadow victims minister, also writing in Red Box, said that Labour would give rights to victims of persistent antisocial behaviour. She said the party would also develop a scheme to ensure that rape survivors got free legal advice: "After their ordeal, it is only right that they are supported through the criminal justice system."

Criminal justice system failing under the Tories, Red Box, thetimes.co.uk



Women vie with men for best cellars

Andrew Ellson
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Helen Perry has amassed an impressive collection in her cellar at home, which she says has been fun and financially rewarding

The world of wine has long been dominated by men, with the image of the typical collector a well-heeled man of advanced vintage, while your average winemaker is a ruddy-faced chap who perhaps enjoys his work a little too much.

Yet, it seems, times are slowly changing as women begin to encroach on this bastion of maleness.

Berry Bros & Rudd, the wine merchant, says that the number of women joining its collector "cellar plan" is now growing faster than the number of men, jumping by 11 per cent over the past year.

Sotheby's says it has seen a surge in the number of women bidding at fine wine auctions. They now take up to a quarter of seats at some events.

Berry Bros was founded by a woman, known only as Widow Bourne, who established a grocery store opposite St James's Palace. It has kept that tradition alive, with both a female chief executive and chairwoman.

Barbara Drew, a master of wine at the company, said: "During the more than a decade I've been hosting events here, I've noticed a cheering uptick in female collectors. Their interests range from wanting to learn about the classic fine wine regions such as Bordeaux and Burgundy, to exploring new world wines. In my experience, the women collectors I've met have been keen to know everything about the wines they are buying, from their ageing trajectory to the philosophy of the winemaker — eager, it seems, to build a personal collection that really reflects their interests and values."

More are also becoming involved at vineyards, including Collette O'Leary, who is now the head winemaker at Henners, in Sussex. "The UK is a really young wine-producing region so we're not inheriting family estates, we are not inheriting doctrines about the way that things have always been done," she said. "We're creating the industry from the ground up and so there are no real barriers to entry if you've got the interest and the aptitude."

She believes that more women are starting to collect wine because they have more disposable income and freedom to choose how they spend their money than previous generations.

She added: "Wineries are also encouraging places for women to come. They're not like old pubs or ale halls or anything like that, so we get a lot of women through the winery cellar door visiting on tours or tastings. I suppose it feels like a safe space where they can start to get more interested in wine. And bit by bit as your interest builds you look to diversify your interest, and maybe that's when the collecting comes in."

Executives say that the wine industry is also subtly changing its marketing to appeal to female buyers, with more women appearing in advertising, for example.

Helen Perry, a 58-year-old wine collector from Surrey, believes this new approach is long overdue. "Having been patronised by sommeliers and waiters for years who wrongly assume that it's my husband who should taste the wine even after I've scrutinised the wine list and ordered it, the changes of late are refreshing," she said. "It can be intimidating to ask questions that might reflect a growing rather than an established knowledge which I'm sure puts some women off. This is a shame considering the fun and financial potential collecting can offer."

Female talent uncorked and flowing

Jane MacQuitty
Comment

Sniffy male sommeliers and misogynist wine merchants will have to get used to it: women are taking over the world of wine. It's been decades now since women became the major supermarket wine buyers, happily slinging a few bargain-buy bottles into their trolleys every week, along with the big shop. Given that 80 per cent of all wine sold in the UK is bought from a supermarket and only 4 per cent of bottles sold retail for more than £10, it's clear that it is cost-conscious women, not men, who are the drivers. It's not just buying wine where women have the upper hand — increasingly, women are getting their hands dirty running wineries and making wine. There are almost too many high-profile women involved in English wine to mention here, promoting their wares on a global stage.

Standouts include Sam Lintner, who pioneered English pinot noir and other red wines at Bolney Wine Estate in Sussex, Corinne Seely of Exton Park, Hampshire, with her brilliant reserve sparklers, and Ruth Simpson, who after making wine in France came back to Blighty to found another hugely successful estate, Simpsons in Kent. It's Cherie Spriggs, the head winemaker at Nyetimber in Sussex, who is the single most impressive individual, having made Britain's most consistently delicious champagne method fizz ever since her first vintage in 2007.

Despite 149 of the 416 Masters of Wine and 34 out of the 273 Master Sommeliers being women, where we have a way to go, alas, is to come out of the back office and start running the show. Very, very few UK wine companies are run by women. More's the pity, too, that in the US and UK, statistics reveal the vast majority of superpremium wines are bought by men, not women. The tide is turning, but not as fast as women involved in wine would like.

Jane MacQuitty is the Times' wine critic

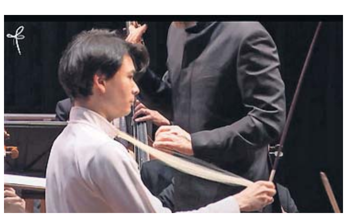
Fiddlesticks! Bow snaps mid-concert

Constance Kampfner

Stefan Jackiw has played with the same faithful bow in more than 1,000 concerts and practised with it for tens of thousands of hours.

So when the $30,000 bow snapped during a concerto, Jackiw was shocked. "I've had a string break but never had a bow break," he said. "Most violinists in a lifetime of playing won't have a bow snap."

The New Yorker was performing a solo with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, playing in the UK premiere of a concerto by Reinhold Glière. "The striking thing was there was nothing particularly percussive or aggressive about the passage. It was just a freak accident," he said.



Stefan Jackiw: "It was a bit of a blur"

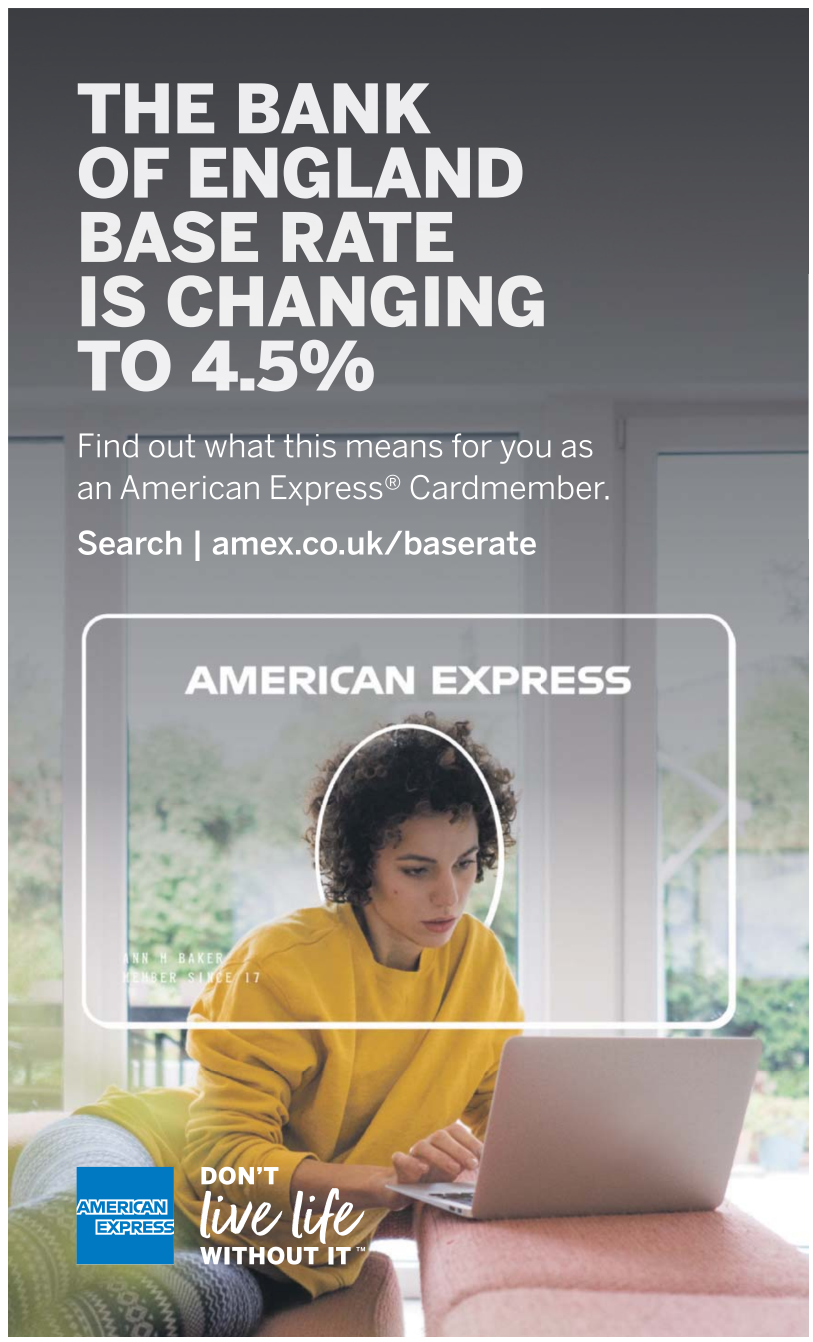
Jackiw, 38, said he felt "panic" but in the moment he appeared calm. In seconds he had swapped bows with the leader of the first violin section. "It's a little bit of a blur in my mind. I think the conductor stopped the orchestra but it was just a split second."

Kirill Karabits described it as a moment when you "start reacting spontaneously to everything". The Ukrainian conductor was unsure where his soloist had picked up the piece from "but then I found him and we were back on track".

For Jackiw the stress was not over. He said: "[The replacement] was an excellent bow but … it's like you've borrowed someone else's shoes and then you try running a race."

Jackiw said his priority now was fixing his 19th-century Parisian bow, which he has owned for 20 years. He said: "The greatest violins were made in the 1700s in Italy; the greatest bows were made in the 1800s in France."

The performance is available to livestream on the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra website until June 9.



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Parents have to be in control but there are limits
Libby Purves
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Comment

Centralising Starmer determined to go it alone

Analysis of last week's local election results has convinced the Labour leader he can govern without Lib Dem support

Patrick Maguire



After a post-election trip into deep England and a day on parade at the coronation, last Monday Sir Keir Starmer and his wife retreated — as so often at moments of triumph and despair — to the Camden home of his friends Baroness Chapman, the shadow cabinet minister, and her husband Nick Smith, the Labour backbencher. There, over a bank holiday barbecue, he offered the handful of MPs present an "O-Level history lesson". "Did you know," he asked, "that only three Labour leaders have won majorities since 1945?"

Left hanging, implicit but universally understood, was Starmer's newfound conviction that he will make it four. So this is not a column about Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Forget it. Forget coalitions and confidence and supply arrangements. Forget electoral pacts. Forget proportional representation. And should you remember the name Sir Ed Davey, forget that too. None of it matters to Starmer, no matter how many times he is asked to rule in or rule out. The Labour leader and his inner circle ponder these questions only insofar as to work out how they might dismiss them with the requisite level of insouciance.

They really do think Professor Sir John Curtice is wrong about the local elections. They really do think, having pored over results that show them winning among the Leave voters and non-graduates who so resoundingly rejected Jeremy Corbyn in 2019, that they are on course to win a parliamentary majority. They really do expect to govern alone. "What we have learnt this week," a shadow cabinet minister tells me, "is that the Tories no longer have any path to a majority. At all. The Conservative Party are not going to form a government. And the Lib Dems matter only because they'll take seats off them for us."

Granted, to take this Labour leadership's words at face value is a dangerous sport, as the left learnt to their cost. But the denials and deferrals that now reliably come in response to hypotheticals on coalitions, pacts and PR — the latter of which Starmer forcefully rejected at a conference of the Blairite think tank Progressive Britain over the weekend — are not mere brinkmanship or wishful spin. They are the outward signs of Starmer's belief that power really is now his for the taking, on his terms.

Not for him the unedifying fate of

> Forget party coalitions and confidence and supply arrangements

Jim Callaghan, sustained in office for 18 months by the charity of David Steel's Liberals. In March 1977, just after those two leaders brokered the last confidence and supply arrangement to which any Labour leader has submitted, the Daily Mail ran a cartoon of Callaghan on the telephone in his pyjamas. "Just to let you know, David — I've brushed my teeth and washed behind my ears and I'd like to go to bed now…" Labour tribalists such as Roy Hattersley still recall bitterly those small indignities and sops to Steel, like having to troop through the aye lobby to endorse PR for European elections.

As today's leadership savours the foretaste of power, it is ever more convinced it will not have to govern as supplicants to any other party. But what of its own? The great irony of this past week of post-election celebration and counterfactual is that it has largely ignored the very people who won those elections, and will matter more to what a Starmer government delivers than the Lib Dems do: Labour councillors and mayors. Thanks to Gordon Brown and his mammoth report on the constitution, Starmer is notionally committed to devolving more power than any prime minister before him. Yet it is far from clear whether those closest to him trust local leaders with it — and work is quietly under way to scale back some of Brown's bolder plans.

As Starmer welcomed his 22 new council chiefs to Westminster, he hailed them as the vanguard of the next government. Yet in Sheffield, the leader of the city council was ousted and his local party taken under the direct control of Labour HQ before counting had finished. Too many councils are seen as too dysfunctional, too scandal-prone to be trusted without the oversight of Starmer's enforcers. Earlier this month The Times revealed that so-called campaign improvement boards had taken over local parties in Birmingham, Blackpool, Croydon, Dudley, Stoke, and the Wirral.

Such tensions are as old as the party itself. Ramsay MacDonald defined himself against the budget-busting welfare programme of George Lansbury's Labour council in Poplar; Neil Kinnock against Derek Hatton in Liverpool and Ted Knight in Lambeth, where Starmer's svengali Morgan McSweeney cut his teeth as an organiser determined to root out the hard left. Indeed, what convinced



Keir Starmer would not countenance a similar fate to that of Jim Callaghan

McSweeney of the need to "pick up the Labour Party and smash its head open" was the arrest of the Liverpool mayor Joe Anderson on allegations of corruption (for which he has not been charged) in December 2020. Labour's happy-clappy evangelism for devolution is laced with an Old Testament paranoia and distrust for those to whom it would devolve.

Nobody knows this better than Labour's mayors, who complain they see more of two Conservative Michaels in Gove and Heseltine than their own party leader. They are not wholly wrong. One of the very few people Starmer is reliably rude about is Andy Burnham, the Greater Manchester mayor long viewed by the leader's office as a troublemaking self-publicist with designs on the leadership and too much tolerance for the left. John Smith, who died 29 years ago last week, was able to transcend faction because of what Tam Dalyell called his well-developed "forgettory" for past disagreements. Starmer admits he does not trust easily; shadow cabinet ministers with whom he is now close first endured a long thaw. He bears a grudge.

Can he afford to? These are the people who, under a Starmer government, will control tens of billions of pounds in government

> One of the few people Starmer is rude about is Andy Burnham

spending — and in Burnham's case, the NHS. As Starmer himself said, these are the people who will begin the job of delivery long before Labour ministers have figured out their way round Whitehall. With the polls as they are it is these vexed relationships within Labour, not any hypothetical coalition, that risks limiting the potential of any future Starmer government.

"Something about that office does something to people," Angela Rayner recently told one mayor despairing of the bunker mentality that takes hold of Labour leaders. "We need to send a priest in with some holy water." Call it exorcising power. But having spent three years remaking their party in pursuit of office, Starmer and McSweeney will have to confront their demons to make a Labour government work.

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Comment

Labour doesn't want to build new homes either

Rupa Huq's objection to a development in Ealing underlines why young people are so enraged

Will Lloyd



@WILL__LLOYD

To the London borough of Ealing, where the local Labour MP Rupa Huq is celebrating some "good news". In 2021, the local council approved plans for a mixed-use 26-storey tower scheme, which would have replaced its (genuinely hideous) headquarters. Patel Taylor and Treherne architects envisaged six new buildings, which included offices, 477 homes and a library.

Huq was among those who made 2,165 objections to the planning application. She was fond of describing the development as a "monster", a "white elephant" and a "sore thumb". She was annoyed by the proposed tower, which she accused of "stealing our sky". In the end Huq's complaints won the day. The sky was saved. New housing, which would have been ten minutes' walk from Ealing Broadway train station, will not be built on the site.

I am not sure whether Huq would describe herself as a nimby. For one thing, she has complained (in a plaintive way) over the years about Ealing's "housing crisis". For another, she belongs to a party that is allegedly putting house building at the heart of its plans for economic growth. A few days before Huq was celebrating the slaughter of that "white elephant" in her borough, Keir Starmer was taunting Rishi Sunak at PMQs over his decision to scrap house building targets. Out of touch, grotesquely privileged mansion-owning Sunak was "killing the dream of home ownership for a generation". What exactly was Huq doing in Ealing then?

Ealing is my home town. It's where I was born and where I have lived for most of my adult life. I know its schools, its hospitals and the one bar where it is still possible to drink after 1am. I have watched Ealing's population expand rapidly since the turn of the millennium, with no simultaneous increase in building high-density housing stock in the borough. Consequently, I know it is an expensive place to rent and an even more expensive place to buy a home. Most of my friends in Ealing have had no choice but to leave the area. There is no "dream of home ownership" for anyone who grew up here and there hasn't been for a long time.

> Starmer will pander to older voters who already own houses

The phrase "housing crisis" has become an awful cliché. In Britain, you can guarantee that anything — our sewage systems or health service, law courts or armed forces — can be safely described as being in "crisis", with little to offer from the people who have the power to do anything about it.

We do not have a "housing crisis" in Britain. We have a planning system that makes it too difficult to build homes in places where people actually want to live, like Ealing, where they can have decent lives, raise children and contribute to the economy.

That system gives far too much weight to people such as Huq, who make aesthetic objections to building projects. She described those 477 new homes as "out of all character" with the area. Let me tell you a secret about Ealing: it doesn't have a character. It's a middling London suburb. The built environment here is so characterless it merited a single entry in *Nairn's London*, the greatest book ever published on the city's architecture. (Nairn in effect tells readers who want to look at pretty things to go almost anywhere else.)

Ealing is not beautiful, nor is it ugly — but it is definitely going too far to suggest, as Huq did, that it has a character. The last time the vistas around Ealing might have made a nice picture postcard was when Robert Walpole was prime minister. It is absurd to suggest that a place this functional has some sort of Venetian skyline that can be "stolen" by a single tower block. If you cannot build homes here, where they are really needed and there is nothing to spoil, where can you build them?

My guess, considering the track records of all our political parties, and the actions of elderly residents, planning bureaucrats, and local councils up and down Britain, is nowhere.

Sunak never had enough political capital to take on shire Tories who would die to protect their little forever England villages from the supposed scourge of new homes. Starmer appears to be in the phase of his leadership where he makes vague and contentless promises about the problems of the day without ever really committing to doing anything about them. On housing, Starmer will end up pandering, as Sunak has, to older voters who already own homes, who always vote and who are trapped in a zero-sum mindset about building. Their priority is to keep things as they are. They speak the same curdled language — white elephants, sore thumbs, monsters — as Huq.

The most outstanding attitude in British society today is the bitter resentment the young feel towards the old. When young people — and given just how aged Britain is, this is now anyone under the age of about 45 — talk about nimbys they sound like Joseph Stalin ranting about kulaks. They look at their grandparents and see a class that is in effect squatting on the rest of the country. This resentment cuts across political allegiances, class divides and geography.

Keeping things the way they are, and the young stuck in poorly paid work that barely covers rent and living costs, is guaranteed to generate perverse political outcomes. They might look like Corbynism. Maybe they will look even worse. Whatever they are, unless the planning system is taken away from the influence of people like Huq, those outcomes will not be "good news".

Will Lloyd is a commissioning editor and writer at the New Statesman

Emma Duncan Notebook

Mask made medical visit a misery — take it off!

The day after the NHS Covid app was shut down, which felt like a signal that the epidemic was officially over, I took an elderly relation to a clinic to have her memory tested. The doctor had a thick accent and wore a mask. The combination made it hard for me to understand him; for my relation, who is a little deaf — as those whose memories are failing often are — he was incomprehensible. So the conversation went something like this:

Him: Ima grumblesay randomer namener dressen eye wanner repeater.

Her: (turning to me, troubled) I can't hear what he's saying.

Me: (to her) I THINK HE'S GOING TO SAY A RANDOM NAME AND ADDRESS AND HE WANTS YOU TO REPEAT IT.

Her: Oh, OK.

Him: Covering Shoeshine.

Her: (with a desperate look) I'm so sorry…

Me: Could you say that again?

Him: Caffeinate Shonshon.

Me: (to him) Catherine Johnson?

Him: Yes.

Me: (to her) CATHERINE JOHNSON

And so on, for a miserable hour and a half, to get through a test that should probably have taken half an hour.

It's embarrassing to have your faculties examined under any circumstances. If your hearing is poor, which is a constant reminder that you're losing your grip on the world, it's excruciating. The mask made the experience far worse than it need have been.

My relation did not complain; she thinks anybody providing her with care, paid or otherwise, is doing her a tremendous favour. I, however, was furious. People whose job is to communicate with the elderly have a duty to make themselves comprehensible. When Covid is no longer a danger, masks are unnecessary. Just take the damn things off.



Weed could be heroes

In the spring I'm usually in the garden with secateurs and fork before breakfast, snipping here and uprooting there, but this year circumstances have conspired to make me neglect it. I feel rather ambivalent about this.

On the one hand, I'm keeping up with horticultural fashion. Artifice is so yesterday, and my garden is basically a small version of Knepp, the rewilded West Sussex estate the world gushes over. There are subtle differences. The fauna on Knepp's rolling acres are longhorn cattle, white storks and nightingales, while in my flat square metres they are urban foxes, some blue tits and a terrier. But the two estates are both rich in what have been rebranded by the Royal Entomological Society as "resilient plants", and by the Royal Horticultural Society as "weed heroes". What used to be my lawn is a joyful profusion of dandelions, buttercups and self-seeded flowers; the beds, meanwhile, are rife with grass, ground elder and bindweed, which yield to no one in their resilience.

On the other hand, gardening is no fun if you're not tussling with nature. That's the point of it. Nature wants a rich diversity of plants in my lawn; I want a monoculture (with a delicate smattering of daisies) to contrast with the colourful palette in my flowerbeds. Nature wants to eat my lupins, throttle my aquilegia and cover my roses in greenfly. I want to kill snails, goose grass and pests. The fun is in the fight: what's the point of gardening if I'm not mano a mano with nature?

Boss behaving badly

The issue of badly behaved bosses reminds me of an editor who amused himself aiming personal jibes at me. I went into his office one day as he was pointing the remote control at an air conditioning unit and shouting in frustration: "Cooler!" On seeing me in the doorway, he pointed the remote in my direction, and said "Hotter!" He thought it was hilarious. So did I, as he knew I would. His jokes made my job more fun, but I bet he wouldn't make them today.

THUNDERER

Good mental health is about far more than popping pills

Rachel Kelly

As someone who has been banging on about the need for more openness about mental health for nearly a decade, I can't believe I'm writing this. But have we gone too far? Are some of us imagining we are suffering from mental health illnesses when we aren't?

This week is Mental Health Awareness Week, and talk about mental health has expanded exponentially since I first wrote about my own severe depressive episodes. But are we now over-medicalising everyday challenges?

Can it really be that, according to the Mental Health Foundation, a quarter of adults feel so anxious "that it stopped them from doing the things they want to do some or all of the time", according to a recent survey? And that six in ten adults feel this way at least some of the time? And that 8.3 million people need to take antidepressants?

Clearly many people are suffering. They are not making up their concerns. I myself have benefited from medication. Some say we are not providing enough NHS support, in particular to young people and middle-aged men who are most at risk of dying by suicide. They often suffer in silence, says Dr James Arkell, a consultant psychiatrist. "Typically these men still suffer from the stigma of suffering from a mental illness and there are barriers to them getting help," he tells me.

But we also need to rethink how we approach mental health more broadly. We need to recognise that all areas of policy and social life are relevant: not just healthcare but the arts, transport, food, education, homes, green spaces, work and welfare, social care and more.

This is where charities can play a crucial role, and why I'm supporting the Kind2Mind initiative from the charity Big Give. This week, it will double any donation to 180 participating charities, many of which are literally saving lives.

They include everything from the Wave Project, which has delivered surf therapy to over 6,000 children since 2010, to Empire Fighting Chance, which provides boxing therapy in Bristol. These charities chiefly help people's mental health in ways that do not involve medication, and support psychological wellbeing. Many of them recognise that mental health problems can be as much social and environmental as medical.

So, yes, drugs can play a part. Yes, some people do indeed need medical help and much more quickly than current NHS waiting lists allow. But there are many other ways we can be kind to our minds.

Rachel Kelly is an ambassador for The Big Give's Kind2Mind campaign



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Parents have to be in control but there are limits

Spoiling children is destructive, yet prioritising the dreams and ambitions of the older generation should only go so far

Libby Purves



@LIB_THINKS

Sometimes extremes bring useful focus to mundane affairs. Take Suzanne Heywood's remark in her book *Wavewalker* that from the age of seven until she broke free at seventeen she was "trapped inside someone else's dream": her father's.

He wanted to sail around the world. Three years extended to a decade, with much struggling. "He wanted to be a hero, my mother wanted to be with him, and that was that." Thus the father's freedom became his children's imprisonment, their world widened to the globe but narrowed to a cabin.

She tells of a terrifying head injury, and being given the female burden of domestic chores while her brother worked on deck. She records desperation for normal friendships and an education. Remarkably, as she passed primary school age she found the latter, swapping grimy books at charity shops on Pacific islands, learning and thinking without encouragement.

It's a hell of a story. We often hear of families taking to the seas or the road, but not for so long. I have met sea-gypsies doing a couple of years and admired the kids' resilience. It is tempting to show young children more than a narrow neighbourhood, state-approved schooling and banal holidays, and indeed we pulled ours out of primary school for one term to sail round Britain with a cabinful of toys and books. We are glad of it and of all our memories.

But what Heywood's father, Gordon Cook, imposed is very different. He has blithely said, "I like to think I saved them from the British education system!" — but didn't want his daughter to write her version, nor did her brother. But it's worth relating to, from the seven-year-old's dismay at leaving home, friends and dog to the young adult who flew home alone to find freedom and learning. She does not deny the moments of seafaring magic, but was indeed "trapped in someone else's dream".

> To some extent every child has to live inside an adult's ambition

All children are. To some extent every child has to live inside a presumption or ambition. From Prince George in his gold-frogged page of honour outfit to little girls in hijabs, children start their lives trapped in parental aspic. For years you don't question your progenitors' values and ambitions, and when you do, it may be painful. A little-acknowledged duty of parents is to recognise that, examine their own ideas and work out which ones really matter.

One commentator on Heywood's book suggested censoriously that 1970s parents were "more selfish than today's… children tagged along doing whatever the parents wanted to do". There is some truth in that, but go back a generation to my own postwar childhood, and it really was the case. Adults were not cruel or neglectful, just detached: Dad behind the newspaper, Mum busy, no telly, keep yourself amused, child! Find a book, go outdoors, we're busy. And you can't go to your mate's, we're all going to Grandma's for tea.

Go back further and find Edwardian elders with their hands gripped even more firmly on the helm, and further still to a time when actually beating disobedient children was considered necessary to moral development — "spare the rod, spoil the child".

But if there is a continuum of increasing parental indulgence, you can argue that in 21st-century middle Britain, where housing concerns and dual-income needs make progeny a rationed luxury, it goes too far. Whereas once a childish cry of "I hate you!" could be shrugged off as passing naughtiness, today it feels harder to accept condemnation when you're exhausted by earning a precarious living , running a home and constantly lectured on the fragility of youthful mental health. "We live," one parent wearily muttered, "in the age of Giving In."

Every whim, opinion and refusal bears weight; the answer "because I say so, that's why" has fashionable child-rearing experts crying emotional abuse. It's all even harder now that a combination of aggressive Covid restrictions (friendly towards the elderly) and a broken housing market have given the rising generation reasons to be angry.

> Is it fair for sporty dads to expect sons to excel on the playing field?

So the Heywood book made me reflect that for any parent, any time, it pays to be rigorously honest in asking yourself what is really important to give and expect, and what is mere habit, tradition, and social vanity (it is not a child's duty to be "a credit to you").

Was it ever fair for sports-mad fathers to expect sons to do them honour on the playing field, or chic and dressy mothers to demand tomboy daughters follow that example? Why should the seasick, nervous child of a "sailing family" have every summer spoilt? Generations of traditional county families have tormented their less-keen infants with insistence they get on horseback and not disgrace themselves at gymkhanas. And how many of the kids hauled along to political or environmental demonstrations actually want to go?

More agonisingly for many, there's the question of how far to impose music practice in the face of solid, bored resistance? Or indeed to insist on classical acoustic purity when you have spawned a rocker or jazzman? And let's not even start on choice-of-friends, still less on church: the level of value imposed on those matters will vary from devout to purely social.

All children are born into some parental dream. Some things matter, others just seem to. None of us gets it all right.

Myself, given another chance, I would say the non-negotiable skills and habits to impose were few. Start with decent manners, literacy, numeracy, ability to persevere at least at one chosen thing, and to swim. Or at least float. Treat other vicarious ambitions with care.

Letters to the Editor

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1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

UK's ambition to be science superpower

Sir, Strategic direction is indeed needed if the UK is to reap the benefits of science, engineering and technology (letter from Sir James Dyson and report, May 13). However, long-term choices do not come naturally to the UK. The 2017 industrial strategy faded away, followed by the plan for growth and the innovation strategy.

There are signs that the government's approach is changing, and that it is even willing to intervene to shape markets where necessary. The new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology has produced a flurry of activity including the science and technology framework, national quantum strategy and the wireless infrastructure strategy, with the much-anticipated semiconductor strategy to be published soon, but the proof of the pudding is in the implementation.
Professor Sir Jim McDonald FREng
President, Royal Academy of Engineering

Sir, James Dyson is right about the escalating need for high-quality engineering graduates. Here in Herefordshire we are incubating a solution. The first students at the New Model Institute for Technology and Engineering will graduate next year. They learn in an entirely different way from other science, technology, engineering and maths students: in three-week client-driven modules, focusing on acquiring knowledge, skills and professional competence at the same time. Half of them have already been offered jobs locally at great salaries. Our goal is to prove the effectiveness of this approach, and then to work with entrepreneurs, local authorities and companies in other areas where Stem skills are in desperately short supply and economic and social regeneration is needed.
Jesse Norman
MP for Hereford and minister for decarbonisation and technology

Kit Kat cereal allure

Sir, Nestlé insists that its new Kit Kat cereal is not promoted to children yet my 11-year-old daughter responded most enthusiastically to the photo of the cereal packet (letter and report, May 13). Her view was that "it is very clearly advertised at children", and that she "could not imagine anyone over the age of 20 buying it".
Sarah McKenna
Barnet

Corrections and clarifications

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Desperate need for reform of prison system

Sir, Matthew Parris's article "Prisons are a disgrace but no one will say so" (May 13) should be a wake-up call to policymakers of all viewpoints, who have neglected this subject for far too long. The real disgrace lies not inside our prisons but in the failure of public and private rehabilitation efforts to help prisoners into jobs, housing and law-abiding lives after their release. The good work done by prison officers, managers and governors is under-reported. In recent months at HMP Pentonville, where I have served for five years as a prison chaplain, we have opened a drug-free wing and a ground-breaking neurodiverse unit wing for those with disorders such as autism or ADHD that has reduced violence throughout the prison; and have received a laudatory report on these and other improvements from the Prisons Inspectorate. Such advances are like clapping with one hand if they are not matched by efforts to rebuild the lives of prisoners after they walk out of the gate.
The Rev Jonathan Aitken
London SW5

Sir, Matthew Parris was courageous in mentioning the growing prison population listed as sex offenders. The blanket term "sex offender" is used to cover individuals who have foolishly opened inappropriate images on their mobiles as well as those who are rapists. All are similarly stigmatised. This is wrong, counter-productive and needs addressing. However, there are seeds of hope. James Timpson had the idea of creating employment advisory boards (EABs) chaired and organised by volunteers with business experience. These are now established in almost every prison in Wales and England. Their purpose is to build a bridge of opportunity for prisoners through training and employment. The government has backed this initiative and Alex Chalk, the new justice secretary, recently met EAB chairs, listened to them and showed a genuine concern — something often absent in previous holders of this post.
Fiona Sample
CEO, the Oswin Project; EAB chair, HMP Durham

Sir, Like Matthew Parris, I hope the new justice secretary will listen to those who campaign for the release of the 3,000-odd prisoners still serving indefinite sentences (IPPs) imposed under the terms of an act passed in 2005. Such sentences were abolished in 2012 but not retrospectively. My late husband, Sir Brian Barder, campaigned against the act as it was passing through parliament and maintained that campaign throughout his final illness in 2017. He correctly predicted that it would never be possible for anyone to prove that they would not be a threat in the future. Earlier this year, Dominic Raab rejected the justice committee's recommendation that all IPPs should be reviewed. Alex Chalk must surely now overturn his decision.
Lady Barder
London SW18

Sir, Matthew Parris's call for prison and sentencing reform, and the reasons he gives for it, are spot on. Of the five statutory purposes of sentencing adults, much has been made by successive governments of the first, punishment, which is perceived to be a vote-winner, and not nearly enough of the third, reform and rehabilitation of offenders. This is a serious mistake, particularly because the reduction of crime (the second purpose) is far better achieved by the latter than the former. Further, it is virtually impossible to achieve the fifth purpose "the making of reparation by offenders to those affected by their offences" when offenders are in prison.
His Honour Simon Tonking
Abbots Bromley, Staffs

Reeves on schools

Sir, Rachel Reeves's assertion that she wants her own children to mix with "children from all backgrounds" (Saturday interview, May 13) is more than possible in a private school. Reeves is making a gross assumption, and fails to see that society is more complex than what people spend their money on. There are many extremely wealthy people who choose state education because they do not wish to pay for it. And there are many who work their backsides off to give their children the best education possible. Her complaint of having to "make big cutbacks" is a sacrifice that my wife and I (and many other parents) are willing to make. Instead of attacking private education, perhaps she should put her efforts into repairing the state sector, starting with adequate funding of schools, reduced class sizes, retention of staff and training opportunities for teachers.
Ben Wolfin
English teacher, London NW7

Sir, Few can disagree with Rachel Reeves's view that the country is in a dire state, not least in educational outcomes. But attacking private schools with a 20 per cent VAT charge is not the answer. Reeves says many children do well in state schools. But sadly far more do not and there are thousands of "working parents" scraping together the means to educate their children in the private sector with the benefit of bursaries and other awards, a more eclectic (if not yet representative) mix of backgrounds than ever.

Burdening the state system with a proportion of the 600,000 privately educated pupils who will be removed from their schools if VAT is levied is a poor answer to our educational woes Instead, Labour should focus on the way this country is failing its children: an exam system that belongs in the Stone Age; school day lengths that are so short that it is almost impossible for many families to have two full-time working parents; and the exclusion or demotion of sport, exercise and music from the curriculum. Not to mention the wider social issues of housing, obesity and crime.
Julian Gairdner
Oldford, Somerset

Safeguards in peril

Sir, The Retained EU Law Bill, which returns today for its Lords report stage, enables the government to review, repeal or reform thousands of laws already on the statute book. About half of these relate to the environment. The bill could enable administrations to change vital standards for water quality or food standards with scant parliamentary scrutiny, independent expert advice or public consultation. The bill includes a clause demanding that any new regulations are less of a burden than those they replace, in effect providing a charter for deregulation. As peers from across the House, we are concerned by what seems to be a power grab by ministers. We urge the government to back changes to the bill that would guarantee existing levels of protection and ensure parliament retained its role in scrutinising any future modifications to environment and food protections.
Professor Lord Krebs FRS; Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville; Baroness Parminter; Baroness Boycott; Lord Duncan of Springbank; Baroness Young of Old Scone

SHIP LOOTED BY CHINESE PIRATES

FROM THE TIMES MAY 15, 1923

Pirates travelling in the guise of passengers suddenly seized control of the steamer Taishun, which was proceeding from Hong Kong to Shanghai on Saturday morning and was fifty miles from Swatow. After a few terrifying minutes of shouting and revolver firing and slashing of choppers, during which the chief officer Crawford and two of the Chinese crew were wounded, the captain, Jensen, and the officers and engineers were locked up. The passengers were panic-stricken, and the pirates began a 14-hour looting. The leaders, who it is suspected were saloon passengers, covered their faces with small towels in which were eyeholes. One of the freebooters had a knowledge of navigation and turned the ship towards Hong Kong. At nightfall the looting ended, the lights were doused, and the pirates compelled the ship's cooks to prepare a feast of chicken, which they ate, at the same time drinking much whisky and soda. At daybreak efforts were made by the pirates to capture a junk in order to effect their escape. Several junks which were fired upon returned the fire, one using an old-time cannon and nearly hitting the steamer. Eventually the second officer was released and compelled to steer towards a fishing junk. The fishermen were covered with firearms and forced to tie up alongside the steamer. The pirates boarded the junk, taking Captain Jensen as a hostage, and loot valued at £8,000, and made for the shore. The captain returned safely to Hong Kong, which he reached on Sunday evening.

The Taishun flies the Chinese flag, consequently the Hong Kong Anti-Piracy Regulations do not apply. As it did not carry wireless, and was not protected by guards, it was therefore a very easy mark. The Chinese pirate gang are estimated to be one hundred strong, and are probably Waichow men, the same organization as that which looted the Suian in November last.

● A thousand bandits from Honan have arrived at a point about six miles from Hankow, and are demanding $150,000 [£18,500) and ammunition as the price of their departure. Foreign residents are greatly alarmed, and are expecting trouble. Armed cars carrying 40 picked soldiers with machine-guns are being attached to all trains on the Peking-Hankow railway.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Bothersome buyers

Sir, Further to your article "How to deal with badly behaved house sellers" (Bricks & Mortar, May 12), could you offer guidance on how to deal with badly behaved buyers? We had more than 30 viewings before we sold our house last year. I work from home and had to spend three months getting out of the way of viewers. One low point was meeting a woman on her way out who said cheerfully that she wouldn't be buying — her daughter was thinking of moving to the area and the mother was just curious as to what she might get for her money. I restrained myself from pointing out that I'd had to move a board meeting to accommodate her whim. Of the six offers we received, three were withdrawn (including the one we'd accepted) because the buyers were making offers to "hold" properties while they continued to look at others. Buyers make offers willy-nilly, with no consideration for the inconvenience and stress to the seller.
Charlie Rapple
Oxford

Lost workforce

Sir, Mel Stride's comment that getting those who left the workforce during the pandemic to return could fund a 2p tax cut is easy to say but the reality of being hired into a job you want, over the age of 50, can be nigh on impossible ("Tactical voting punished us at the polls, Tory minister says", May 12). It is not the economically inactive whom the government should target in its back-to-work drive, it is employers. If companies were forced to publish data on the age of employees when they were hired, we would see clearly how older job seekers are being overlooked.
Maya Bhose
Founder, Charity Interns

Dambuster delay

Sir, I was surprised that Max Hastings did not mention the greatest achievement of the Dambusters ("Never forget courage of the Dambusters", May 13). So anxious was the Nazi regime to repair the damage to the Ruhr dams that it withdrew skilled construction workers and engineers then engaged in strengthening fortifications in northern France designed to counter expected Allied landings. Thus it was that Operation Chastise materially contributed to the success of D-Day.
Professor Geoffrey Alderman
Principal, Nelson College, Ilford

Beaver surprise

Sir, I wish Miriam Darlington good luck in her search for beavers (Nature notes, May 13). On holiday in the middle of France we were offered *le castor* for dinner, and a casserole of beaver was produced. It turned out that beavers were bred locally and were supplied frozen in the summer and fresh in the winter, with the pelt being used for slippers and gloves.
Katharine Minchin
Easebourne, W Sussex

Table footsie

Sir, Jane Stanford says she made a "disastrous mistake" when she bought a glass dining table ("Secret signals", letter, May 12). The solution is simple and inexpensive: she need only buy a tablecloth.
John McGuinness
Tyn-y-Groes, Conwy

Daily Universal Register

Europe: The Chinese special envoy Li Hui arrives for talks on Ukraine.
UK: Premier League football: Leicester City v Liverpool (8pm).

Nature notes



The steep ridge of Whitehawk Hill protrudes into the eastern district of Brighton, topped by Stone Age earthworks and a gleaming TV and radio transmitter. Sheep graze its litter-blown chalk grassland, Kemptown's tightly packed terraces far below giving way to tower blocks and then the gleaming sea. The flock's job is to stop brambles and scrub taking over — but the brambles are alive with the song of blackcaps, whitethroats, wrens and robins, while a kestrel hovers overhead, looking for prey sheltering in its shadows. The flowers will feed bees, butterflies, moths and other insects; the blackberries will be eaten by voles and mice. MELISSA HARRISON

Birthdays today



Sir Andy Murray, *pictured*, tennis player, Wimbledon men's singles champion (2013, 2016), 36; **Aly Bain**, fiddler, 77; **David Cronenberg**, film director, *The Fly* (1986), *Maps to the Stars* (2014), 81; **Ben Derbyshire**, architect, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects (2017-19), 70; **Sir Peter Donnelly**, founder and chief executive of Genomics plc and emeritus professor of statistical science at the University of Oxford, 64; **Martin Eberhard**, engineer, co-founder of Tesla, 63; **Brian Eno**, musician, *An Ending (Ascent)* (1983), *Music for Installations* (2018), and producer, 75; **Hadley Freeman**, journalist, feature writer for The Sunday Times, and author, *Good Girls: A Story and Study of Anorexia* (2023), 45; **Jasper Johns**, painter and printmaker, *Flag* (1955), 93; **Karin Krog**, jazz singer, *We Could Be Flying* (1974), 86; **Christina Lamb**, journalist, chief foreign correspondent for The Sunday Times, and author, *Our Bodies, Their Battlefield: What War Does to Women* (2020), 58; **Sophie Raworth**, broadcaster, BBC newsreader, 55; **David Reiss**, founder, the fashion Reiss chain, 80; **Don Robert**, chairman, London Stock Exchange Group, Experian (2014-19), 64; **Prof Sir Stephen Sparks**, volcanologist, trustee, Natural History Museum (2015-22), 74; **Ralph Steadman**, cartoonist and illustrator, 87; **Anthony Wall**, documentary film-maker and series editor of BBC *Arena* (1985-2018), 72; **Ben Wallace**, defence secretary, Conservative MP for Wyre and Preston North, 53; **Paul Walsh**, chairman, McLaren Group (automotive, motorsport and technology), Compass Group (2014-20), 68; **Frank Wilczek**, theoretical physicist, Nobel prize in physics (2004), 72; **Greg Wise**, actor, *Sense and Sensibility* (1995), *The Crown* (2016-17), 57; **Sir Alimuddin Zumla**, professor of infectious diseases and international health, University College London, 68.

On this day

In **1800** James Hadfield fired a pistol at King George III in the royal box of the Drury Lane theatre in London. It was the second assassination attempt on his life that day.

The last word

"Life is full of a thousand red herrings, and it takes the history of a civilisation to work out which are the red herrings and which aren't."
Peter Greenaway, English film director, interview in *Artforum* magazine (1983)

Reality Check

The Royal College of Nursing has lost all credibility in its management of the dispute over pay. More strikes will do nothing but put patients at risk

If the hapless and quixotic manner in which the Royal College of Nursing has handled the dispute over nurses' pay did not have such worrying implications, it would be aptly described as a farce. Pat Cullen, the RCN's general secretary, initially recommended a pay deal to her members, and is now claiming that the same deal is inadequate. The union wants new negotiations on an increase at least twice the size. Cullen's credibility is increasingly strained. The spectre of further industrial action is hoving into view. This would be deeply unfortunate for the public.

The RCN itself bears much of the responsibility for the current impasse. The union originally demanded a wage rise of retail price inflation plus 5 per cent. That amounted to a 19 per cent increase. It was wildly unrealistic, as was obvious at the time, and set members' expectations at an unattainable level.

Notwithstanding the concerns of other unions that the RCN's belligerent approach would toxify negotiations for the wider public sector, the government did bring forward a proposal of substance. Its offer of an increase of 5 per cent for 2023-24, plus a one-off payment of at least £1,655, was hardly a tight-fisted insult. The package was accepted by a raft of public sector unions, including Unison and the Royal College of Midwives. Cullen recommended that the RCN do the same but, because of her failure to confront reality with her members from the start, the recommendation was rejected in a ballot (albeit that turnout was only 61 per cent, and the margin was slim).

The RCN is now isolated. There is a deep well of affection and respect among the public for those who work in the NHS, and the government's offer reflected that. Yet Cullen now says that nurses "should be made an exception" and receive more favourable treatment than the rest of the health service. Clearly, she is willing to test public support to its limits.

The truth is that the RCN is not a well-oiled machine, and it is showing. When Cullen took office she brought in a KC to conduct an investigation of the culture and governance of the organisation. He found that it was "riddled with division, dysfunction and distrust".

Those problems do not appear to have gone away. Earlier this year Cullen faced an anonymous petition calling for a no confidence vote in the senior leadership of the RCN over the pay deal, which fell apart once it emerged that it included the names of at least one deceased nurse. Further embarrassment ensued last month, when the High Court ruled that a stoppage planned by the RCN was unlawful, despite the union's statement that the government's threat of legal action was "bullying".

The union's attempt to represent nurses is looking increasingly unserious. That is a problem, precisely because its consequences for patients could be very serious indeed. There is now talk of further strikes, running until Christmas. Health service strikes in the past year have already led to hundreds of thousands of missed operations and appointments. At best, strikes by clinicians in the NHS result in unnecessary pain and suffering. At worst, the consequences for patient safety could be more grave than that.

The union's stock response to this charge is that patient safety is at risk anyway, because of underfunding of the health service all year round. That is a neat way of changing the subject, but little more than that. It will be cold comfort to the family of a patient made to endure indignity, or worse, because of one union's determination to be treated as the exception.

The RCN's annual conference is taking place in Brighton this week. It should provide an opportunity for some sober reflection on what is truly in the best interests of the health service.

British Studies

The government is right to signal that our universities remain open to the world

International students are good for Britain. They enrich the higher education system, both financially and culturally, make a contribution to the national economy and help to bolster this country's standing abroad. It is welcome, therefore, that the cabinet has rejected a policy idea that would have signalled to prospective students that Britain was pulling up the drawbridge, and for scant practical benefit.

International students can remain in the UK for two years after graduating, to work or look for a job. *The Times* reports today that Suella Braverman, the home secretary, had proposed to replace this regime with a more restrictive one. Under her system, foreign students would have had to obtain a skilled job within six months, or they would have been forced to leave. Gillian Keegan, the education secretary, opposed the plan, and the chancellor is said to have been on her side. The proposal is now understood to have been shelved.

It is not difficult to understand why the Home Office pushed the idea in the first place. The department is looking for ways to get net migration numbers down. It is characteristically twitchy about statistics being published later this month, which are expected to show that net migration has risen to about 700,000. Recent spikes in the figures have been triggered in part by a post-pandemic surge in international student numbers, along with a number of refugee schemes, including those for Ukrainians and Afghans.

However, an attack on the graduate visa would have been wrong-headed. For a start, it would have made Britain's higher education offering less competitive internationally. Foreign students pay higher fees than their British counterparts and pour cash into the wider economy through their general expenditure. According to an economic analysis published in 2021, the cohort of international students arriving in Britain for the 2018-19 year would bring a net economic benefit of £25.9 billion to the UK over the course of their studies.

The intangible benefits are, if anything, more powerful. These students help to maintain the notoriously high standards of British universities by giving institutions access to a wider pool of talent. When the students graduate, they either contribute to wealth creation here or, if they return to their home countries, they take with them an attachment to Britain that can turn, in the years to come, into trade, investment and even political capital on the world stage. According to the most recent analysis by a higher education think tank, 55 world leaders studied in the UK, a figure bested only by the United States. Universities are factories of soft power.

If the Home Office is concerned about foreign students driving up net migration figures, it should consider taking them out of the count. This newspaper has long argued that foreign students are not migrants in any realistic sense. They are in this country only temporarily. Polling suggests that the public takes a similar view, and a recent report from Policy Exchange, a centre-right think tank, notes that the United States already excludes international students from its statistics. The authors suggest counting them only if they switch to a different visa scheme, and begin a route to staying in the UK permanently. Otherwise, the state should recognise them as the valued customers they are. The cabinet is right to have done so.

Run For Your Money

Kevin Sinfield's fundraising is a poignant story of friendship and human endeavour

Many people struggle with the search for purpose when a career comes to an end. Athletes, whose ability to compete wanes even before middle age, face the challenges of "retirement" especially early. When Kevin Sinfield finished his rugby-playing career in 2016, he could have been forgiven for letting go of some of the ambition of youth: after all, he had already played for England and Great Britain, and captained Leeds Rhinos to seven championships and two Challenge Cups.

Instead, alongside a coaching career, he has devoted himself to raising money for motor neurone disease (MND) charities, following the diagnosis of his friend and former teammate Rob Burrow. MND is a fatal condition that affects the brain and spinal cord, weakening and wasting muscles. It can degrade sufferers' ability to walk, talk, eat and breathe.

Sinfield first met Burrow when the latter was 12 years old, slight of stature for a rugby player, but quick, tough and talented. Their bond, forged on the rugby pitch, seems unassailable decades later. It has driven Sinfield to dream up a series of increasingly brutal sponsored challenges, which must make even seasoned athletes wince.

The first, in 2020, was to run seven marathons in seven days. In 2021, he ran 101 miles from Leicester to Leeds, in 24 hours. In November last year, he ran seven ultra-marathons in seven days. Yesterday Sinfield pushed Burrow along the 26.2 miles of the first marathon to take place in Leeds in 20 years, carrying him over the finishing line.

Sinfield well understands his quid pro quo with the donating public, explaining: "The more pain they see you in, the more money they give." No wonder he has raised over £7.5 million. His efforts, as well as being remarkable feats of endurance, are a testament to the power of companionship to spur a friend to do good.

World

Surging inflation and refugees

Ruling party contests every opposition gain, writes **Hannah Lucinda Smith** in Istanbul



In Recep Tayyip Erdogan's home neighbourhood, the tough Istanbul port district of Kasimpasa, it is impossible to escape the man who has ruled Turkey for 20 years.

His face adorns the exterior wall of a military base, alongside a display of his biggest state projects. It also stares out over the main shopping street, underneath his campaign slogan: "Right time, right man." But even in this stronghold it is not difficult to find people who believe that Erdogan's time is — or at least should be — up.

Outside the polling stations yesterday as voting got under way in the closest-fought elections since Erdogan took power, several people said that they had voted for Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the opposition rival. The economic crisis was the prevailing reason.

"The economic situation is no good, the inflation is intense," Erkan Yilmaz, 34, a chess teacher in a private school, said.

Ender Simsek, 50, said: "I am voting for Kilicdaroglu for the sake of secularism. He is honest and clean. The next century will belong to him."

Huseyin Koc, a coffee shop owner in Kasimpasa, said that migration was the main factor in his decision to vote for Kilicdaroglu. More than five million refugees, mainly from Syria but also from Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere, are living in Turkey, making it the biggest refugee-hosting nation in the world. Many Turks are unhappy and want refugees returned.

"We don't want the Syrians, and Kilicdaroglu will send them back within two years," Koc said.

Others say that they saw a vote for Kilicdaroglu as the last chance to save Turkey from fully fledged autocracy. "The time has come that everyone has started to see what is happening. There is so much corruption, so much injustice," Gunes Su Vural, a doctor, said.

Erdogan's government also faced criticism for its allegedly delayed and stunted response to the earthquakes that caused devastation in 11 southern provinces in February.

The turnout was one of the highest recorded in a Turkish election, with some early estimates putting it at more than 90 per cent, and long queues formed within hours of polling stations opening. Overseas polling stations also had record turnouts. Yet the ballot box is perhaps the last remaining democratic check in a system that Erdogan has brought almost entirely to his heel.

Kilicdaroglu had initially appeared an unpromising candidate but he ran a successful campaign at the helm of six diverse parties, also managing to win the support of the main Kurdish bloc. He took an 11th-hour lead in the final week of campaigning, with final polls showing him pushing above the 50 per cent barrier by a narrow margin.

But the counting and broadcasting of the results was quickly contested, with the opposition claiming that the tally broadcast by Anadolu, the state agency, was not matching that of independent monitors. Erdogan's AKP is contesting every ballot box won by the opposition, meaning that those results were not added to the tallies being broadcast on television channels. By the time half of the votes had been counted the state results showed Erdogan on 51.1 per cent, and his supporters were celebrating at AKP headquarters in Ankara and Istanbul. The results later showed Erdogan dropping below 50 per cent.

An hour into the televised count, Ekrem Imamoglu, the mayor of Istanbul, who is part of the opposition's campaign team, made a statement accusing Anadolu, the state news agency, of slowing down the broadcasting of the vote as it became clear that Erdogan's share had fallen significantly on previous elections. Anadolu has previously shown Erdogan storming into a huge lead by broadcasting the results from his strongholds first, and cut the feed when Imamoglu pulled into the lead in Istanbul's 2019 elections.

Turkey now faces a tense wait until the results are confirmed. The opposition is adamant that it is ahead, although even if that is confirmed it still appears likely that the elections will go to a second round in two weeks.

The tight race is also a reminder that, despite Erdogan's popular decline in recent years, he remains a fearsome competitor whose supporters see him more as a prophet than a politician.

Earlier in the day Erdogan cast his vote in the conservative Istanbul district of Kisikli, where he has a villa and often makes his Friday prayers in the local mosque. He handed out toys to some of the children in the crowd that had gathered to see him.

Others, however, stayed true to the man who has defined Turkey in the 21st century and gone further than any other leader in dismantling its secular foundations.

"I will vote for Reis [Erdogan's nickname, meaning chief] because of his record in what he has done," said Mustafa Kun, 45, as a car playing Erdogan's campaign song drove past. Cihat Unal, 41, who works for the Istanbul municipality, said that the incumbent was "Turkey's security".

"He has built up our defence industry and represents us well in the world," Unal added. "Turkey is under pressure from the whole world. Erdogan is the only one who can stand up to this."

Hatice Nur Kizioglu, a first-time voter who was 18 two weeks ago, also said she had voted for Erdogan. "I don't understand politics, but he is a big leader," she said.

Several voters said they expected Erdogan to win with 53 per cent of the vote, a symbolic number reflecting 1453, the year the Ottomans captured Istanbul.

Erdogan has stuck to his tried and tested formula of divisive campaign rhetoric pitched to his conservative base, launching barbs at gay people and accusing his opponents of supporting terrorism. Kilicdaroglu meanwhile, has campaigned on a message of unity and built an unassuming, avuncular image.

On Saturday, the final day of campaigning, the two candidates made symbolic appeals to their respective bases. Erdogan joined thousands of his supporters to perform evening prayers at the Hagia Sophia, once the seat of Eastern Christianity, which he turned back into a mosque in 2020 after 86 years as a museum.

Erdogan has used the conversion of Hagia Sophia in his campaign, releasing a video showing generations of one family yearning to pray in the iconic building before finally achieving their wish.

Kilicdaroglu visited Anitkabir, the mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk, founder of the secular Turkish republic. He was joined by crowds of his supporters holding red carnations.

Erdogan's popularity appears to be far higher than his party's, proving his enduring personal appeal. Neither his coalition nor that of the opposition is likely to win the parliament outright, meaning that the HDP, with its Kurdish roots, and other small left-wing parties are likely to be the kingmakers.





Musk: content was censored

Richard Spencer
Middle East Correspondent

Elon Musk has admitted he told Twitter to censor its output from Turkey as requested by its government, although the content would remain available to users outside the country.

The decision outraged free-speech activists but Musk said: "This is par for the course for all internet companies, we are just going to be clear that it's happening, unlike the others."

Kenneth Roth, the former head of Human Rights Watch, said: "By making clear that he prioritises Twitter's presence in a country over the platform's free-speech principles, [Musk] has invited endless censorship demands."

Boring uncle takes on the strongman

Profile

For years Kemal Kilicdaroglu was the butt of President Erdogan's jokes (Hannah Lucinda Smith writes). A bureaucrat turned politician, he seemed to lack the charisma that helped Erdogan become the longest-serving leader in the 100 years of the Turkish republic.

But since being announced as the opposition's unity presidential candidate in March, Kilicdaroglu has shaped a new persona for himself as the country's uncle, promising to be everything that Erdogan is not. Against all expectations it worked, winning him

Bring back the monarchy, says French far right
Page 29

Fall and rise of crab fishermen's fortunes
Page 30



drive Turks to vote

OZAN GUZELCE/DIA IMAGES VIA GETTY IMAGES; ADEM ALTAN/AFP; NAZIM CIHAN/AP; HANNAH MCKAY/REUTERS









In some areas the turnout was reported to be more than 90 per cent but supporters of Kemal Kilicdaroglu, above, and Recep Tayyip Erdogan, below, may have to vote again in two weeks, with or without their pets, if this vote is inconclusive

the support of Turks who had dismissed him as too meek to ever defeat Turkey's strongman.

Kilicdaroglu, 74, was born in the eastern province of Tunceli. He is an Alevi, part of a long-repressed minority who follow a liberal, heterodox version of Islam.

After studying in Ankara, he entered the civil service in 1971, while the young Erdogan was making his name in Istanbul as an Islamist. Kilicdaroglu entered politics in 2002, the year that Erdogan's AK Party took power. Kilicdaroglu stood as a candidate for the CHP, the largest opposition party. In 2009 he stood as the mayoral candidate for Istanbul but lost to the AKP candidate. A year later he took over the leadership of the CHP, leading the party to a string of election defeats.

Since 2017, however, something has changed. That was the year Kilicdaroglu set out from Ankara to walk almost 300 miles to Istanbul in protest at the arrest of a party deputy. When he reached Istanbul three weeks later, he was greeted by hundreds of thousands of people. Two years later, the CHP candidate won Istanbul, dislodging Erdogan's party for the first time in 25 years.

The campaign was helped by the city's Kurds, an ethnic group long hostile to the CHP. Kilicdaroglu has tried to move his party away from its hardline history, now a coalition with two aims — to be rid of Erdogan and to return Turkey to the parliamentary system scrapped in favour of an executive presidency by a controversial referendum in 2017.

Kilicdaroglu has galvanised much of Turkey's youth, who are not convinced by Erdogan's divide and rule tactics and his diatribes against LGBT people. He vows not to discriminate according to faith, ethnicity or lifestyle. He has spoken calmly, often from his kitchen, on the economy to democratic reform.

Not everything would change overnight, however. He still opposes US support to Kurds in Syria and would be unlikely to join with fully-fledged sanctions on Russia.

In the final week before the vote, as Erdogan's rhetoric became even more acerbic, Kilicdaroglu's polling soared. An assassination threat against him and attacks on rallies galvanised his support.

For decades, it was thought only a strongman could win elections in Turkey. Now, a man who was once best known for being boring has proved that wrong.

Bending the rules

As voting began reports trickled in of possible abuses, including ballot stuffing and intimidation. The opposition has 300,000 volunteer ballot box monitors across the country's 50,000 polling stations. Each party also has monitors. But Erdogan has tamed the electoral board, which oversees elections, and the courts, and has found ways to manipulate results. In 2017, the electoral board announced that unstamped (unverified) votes in a constitutional referendum could be counted. It is not known how many extra votes this may have added.

Only I can unite the US, DeSantis promises voters

United States
Alistair Dawber
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Ron DeSantis dismissed his poor showing in recent polls of potential Republican White House candidates, telling party members in the key state of Iowa his record as Florida's governor shows he has what it takes to unite Americans.

Iowa will be the first state to choose its candidate when the primary season begins in February. DeSantis, 44, has not yet officially declared that he intends to stand, but he is seen as one of the leading candidates. He is widely expected to join Donald Trump, 76, and hopefuls, by confirming a presidential run in the coming weeks.

Yet as his nascent campaign has gathered pace his popularity has dipped. In November, when he was re-elected in Florida, he opened up a double-digit lead over the former president.

That lead has now evaporated with the polls now swinging back behind Trump. While the Iowa caucus is still nine months away, many in the party think Trump's lead is unassailable.

A YouGov poll for Yahoo News earlier this month shows the former president enjoying a 14 point lead over his younger rival.

"I don't look at polls to tell me what to do," DeSantis told Saturday night's meeting of about 400 party activists at a hotel on the outskirts of Cedar Rapids, an industrial town in eastern Iowa.

"My view is that a leader doesn't put their finger in the wind to try to see which way the wind's blowing, the leader should have the fortitude to chart a vision, to execute the vision and deliver results," he said.

He pointed to his record in Florida, where he largely rejected Covid lockdown mandates and school closures, something he described as a "Faucian dystopia" after the former White House chief medical adviser, Anthony Fauci.

The event in Cedar Rapids, and one in Sioux City in western Iowa earlier in the day, was meant to set up a showdown between him and Trump, but it was cancelled after a tornado warning.

DeSantis nevertheless made an unscheduled stop in Des Moines at the end of his day in the state.

Supporters of the governor might well welcome his more aggressive stance against the former president who has claimed DeSantis only became Florida governor with his help, and now mocks him with the nickname, Ron DeSanctimonious.

DeSantis did not mention Trump during his Cedar Rapids speech, in which he outlined his policy achievements in Florida, attacked President Biden's tenure in the White House and rehearsed red meat issues for the Republican voters.

He castigated Biden, 80, for allowing millions of undocumented migrants into the country since taking office. "Someone asked me, 'What would you do?' I would shut the border down immediately," he said.

He also pointed to his record on schools in Florida, where legislation he has signed has given parents a greater say over what is taught in classrooms and where the teaching of things such as critical race theory — the idea that racism is systemic in society — has been banned.

There is an acknowledgment within his camp, if not publicly, that his unofficial campaign has gone awry. Several wealthy backers have reversed declarations of support, while a row with Disney, one of Florida's largest employers, has been described by some as political naivety. "I was in the DeSantis camp," Andrew Sabin, a metals magnate who gave the governor $50,000, told The New York Times. "But he started opening his mouth, and a lot of big donors said his views aren't tolerable."



Ron DeSantis's campaign is widely thought to have stalled

Trouble with both Mickey and Donald

Behind the story

There was a point during the initial rumblings over Ron DeSantis's so-called Don't Say Gay legislation last year when he warned the Walt Disney Company to stay out of the heated public debate it generated (Jacqui Goddard writes). "You shouldn't get involved; it's not going to work out well for you," he says he told the entertainment giant after it joined the public outcry over his Parental Rights in Education Bill restricting discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity in schools.

A year later, it has not exactly worked out well for DeSantis. Now days away from announcing a presidential bid, Florida's governor urged Republicans in Iowa not to get distracted by "side issues", while continuing to create plenty of them himself.

The Disney matter is in court, after the governor moved to strip its right to self-govern its Florida theme park territory. Polls indicate that voters find his showdown with Mickey Mouse too much like political theatre and his culture wars less crucial than inflation, border security and abortion rights.

IRYNA RYBAKOVA/AP; TOBIAS SCHWARZ/AFP



Ukrainian casualties near Bakhmut on the day Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, and President Zelensky met in Berlin to announce a military support package

Germany seeks to heal Kyiv rift with arms package worth €3bn

Germany
Bruno Waterfield

Germany will send arms worth almost €3 billion to Ukraine, including air defence missile systems and tanks, as part of a new military support package timed to coincide with President Zelensky's visit to Berlin.

The arms and the visit appear to be an attempt by Berlin to heal past rifts with Kyiv after initial German hesitance to support Ukraine's war effort.

Speaking alongside Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, the Ukrainian leader promised western governments that he would not use supplies of weapons, such as British Storm Shadow cruise missiles, to attack Russian territory.

"We are not attacking Russian territory. We are liberating our legitimate territory," he said. "We have no time, no strength and no surplus weapons for this [invading Russia]."

Following reports based on American intelligence that he personally backed strikes on Russian territory, Zelenksy stressed that a planned Ukrainian counter-offensive focused only on the liberation of "our territory recognised by the whole world".

Meanwhile, Mykhailo Podolyak, Zelensky's foreign policy adviser, told the newspaper Bild that recent gains by Ukrainian troops in the city of Bakhmut heralded a new phase in the conflict. "Ukraine has taken the initiative," he said. "In a broader sense, Bakhmut is the prelude to a counter-offensive. It is the door that opens the possibility for Ukraine to launch a successful counter-offensive."

The new arms package, which is worth €2.7 billion, takes Germany's total military aid to Ukraine to €4.2 billion since the invasion. The package includes four Iris-T air defence systems, 18 wheeled howitzers, artillery ammunition, 30 Leopard 1 tanks, and 20 Marder infantry fighting vehicles.

Germany has also given the green light for the further delivery of modern battle tanks to Ukraine such as its own Leopard 1 and 2 models.

Also on Saturday, the German arms manufacturer Rheinmetall announced that it would build a factory to repair and service tanks in Ukraine. Zelensky thanked Germany for "every mother and child you have saved" with the supply of arms, noting: "Everything in this security package will significantly strengthen our defence."

He added: "Now is the time for us to determine the end of this war this year. This year, we can make the aggressor's defeat irreversible." In a choreographed visit aimed at underlining unity, Scholz pledged: "We will support you for as long as necessary."

Zelensky flew to Germany from Italy — after a visit to Rome on Saturday — on a Luftwaffe Airbus A319 accompanied by a protective escort of German Eurofighter Typhoon jets.

The visit follows a previously strained relationship between Zelensky and the German government and Scholz in particular, who initially hesitated to provide Ukraine with lethal weapons.

Zelensky also flew to Aachen with Scholz to accept the Charlemagne prize, awarded for work carried out in the service of European unification.

From Germany, Zelensky flew to Paris for talks with President Macron.

"Paris. With each visit, Ukraine's defense and offensive capabilities are expanding," Zelensky tweeted as he arrived last night at the airbase of Villacoublay-Vélizy, southwest of Paris. "The ties with Europe are getting stronger, and the pressure on Russia is growing."

Shortly afterwards, Macron welcomed Zelensky to the Élysée Palace, for the second time since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The French leader's office said that the pair would discuss during a dinner at the presidential palace France's "support" in responding to "Ukraine's urgent military and humanitarian needs".

Sanctions loophole tightens

Tom Parfitt, David Crossland

Germany wants an EU rule forcing companies from non-member countries to sign a "Not for Russia" clause obliging them to guarantee not to sell certain goods imported from the bloc on to Russia.

Importers would also be required to guarantee that they will only sell those goods on to clients who in turn sign a "Not for Russia" clause.

The clause could be applied to the export of goods with potential military applications such as night vision equipment and drones.

EU states are discussing an 11th packet of sanctions against Russia aimed mainly at preventing the circumvention of existing sanctions.

The EU Commission has proposed a legal framework to limit the export of certain goods to non-EU countries suspected of busting sanctions. Robert Habeck, the German economy minister, wants a crackdown on the circumvention of sanctions and said in February there was "also clear circumvention from within Germany".

The German East European Business Association called last month for tougher pan-European controls to enforce the embargo by blacklisting companies and bodies that allow circumvention.

"Russia has created an increasingly sophisticated system to avoid trade restrictions," the association said. "This is possible because around 60 per cent of the world's economy and 75 per cent of the world's population aren't sanctioning Russia."

Germany's Federal Statistics Office in February reported a surge in German exports to the CIS states (a Eurasian group of states formed after the fall of the Soviet Union) excluding Russia last year.

It said the main exports from Germany to the states in 2022 were motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts, the value of which more than tripled year-on-year to €1.9 billion (up 206 per cent), machinery for €1.4 billion (up 15.6 per cent) and other vehicles (especially aircraft) for €800 million (up 244 per cent).

The value of German car exports to Kazakhstan surged by 507 per cent to €520 million in 2022, with exports to Kyrgyzstan rocketing by 3,961 per cent to €175 million. German exports of data processing equipment, electronic and optical products to Armenia surged by 343 per cent.

Russian air force suffers worst losses

Russia
Maxim Tucker

Russia has suffered its worst loss of aviation in a single day since the first month of the war, with five aircraft reportedly shot down as they approached the Ukrainian border.

Three Russian helicopters, an Su-34 bomber and one Su-35 fighter were destroyed over the Russian town of Klintsy in the Bryansk region of Russia, about 30 miles from the border, according to Yuriy Ihnat, a spokesman for Ukraine's air force.

"The enemy attacked Ukraine from the north. There were two helicopters that formed a barrier and were accompanying the strike group, Su-34 and Su-35, some of their newest aircraft," Ihnat said, adding that the jets were preparing to "launch guided missiles on our towns, as they do every day". He said a third helicopter had been shot down.

The loss of four of the aircraft was confirmed by the Wagner boss Yevgeny Prigozhin as well as by western military analysts based on video evidence.

It represents a huge blow to Russian airpower, as pilots will no longer be confident they can fly safely inside their own airspace.

The jets were part of a heavy Russian aerial bombardment of cities including Ternopil — the home town of Ukraine's Eurovision contestants, Tvorchi — as millions watched the song contest.

The aircraft were shot down within 30 miles of one another north of the Ukrainian border.

Russian military bloggers posted videos of the jets crashing to earth and wreckage on the ground in flames. They said nine crew members had been killed in "a huge loss for aviation".

Putin recruits hackers to test voting system

Maxim Tucker

President Putin's political party is recruiting hackers and challenging them to defeat its digital voting system before Russia's regional elections this year.

"Any cyberteam or hacker will be able to try to hack the system for a week," the United Russia party said. "Anyone who can hack the system will receive a cash reward."

Thousands of regional positions will be decided at the elections on September 10, including 26 state governors and 20 local parliaments. A presidential election will take place next year.

United Russia said that it wanted the hackers to try to crack a duplicate voting system in a competition that could be used to improve protection from cyberattacks. The party said that it had found an increased number of attempts to break into Russian systems since the start of the "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Throughout his 24-year rule, Putin's allies have publicly revelled in the interference by hackers in elections abroad, particularly in the US. Although the Kremlin has a long history of seeking to prevent dissatisfaction being expressed at the ballot box, it has struggled to suppress evidence of its election-rigging in the digital era, with videos of ballot-stuffing frequently ending up on social media and sparking protests. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, more Russians have been encouraged to vote online.

Far-right French demand 'executive king'

France
Charles Bremner Paris

About 500 men carrying royalist flags paraded through central Paris in the latest march by increasingly visible ultra right-wing groups whose anti-democracy creeds are worrying the French authorities.

The demonstration by Action Française, which wants to replace the presidency with an executive king, went ahead after the courts exempted it from a police ban on six marches planned by far-right and neo-Nazi groups in Paris at the weekend.

The men, many in berets and with royalist arm bands, chanted "Vive le roi" and "Down with the republic" as they marched from the Opéra to the statue of Joan of Arc, heroine of the far right. "Once again, like in the times of Joan, France is in danger," Henri Bec, president of the National Restoration movement, said.

Action Française is the oldest of the far-right movements that emerged in the 1950s and which fuelled the rise of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the anti-immigrant campaigner with Nazi sympathies who founded the National Front in 1972.

The demonstration followed outrage over a neo-Nazi march by about 600 people, many masked, clad in black and carrying fascist symbols, last weekend that had been authorised by the police.

Gérald Darmanin, the interior minister, ordered state prefects to ban all ultra-right wing demonstrations because of the risk of violence at a time when France has faced riots by anarchists and violent left-wing groups who have joined demonstrations against President Macron's unpopular reform to the pension age.



Marine Le Pen has tried to distance her party from neo-Nazi protests

Laurent Nuñez, who is head of the Paris police and a former national anti-terrorism co-ordinator, has told the government that the far-right groups, some of which have firearms training, are "an active danger".

While the left-wing parties that head the parliamentary opposition voiced anger over last weekend's neo-Nazi display, Élisabeth Borne, the prime minister, equated the right-wing extremists to the left-wing rioters who have injured hundreds of police since January.

Macron and the "legacy" mainstream political parties tie the rise of violent ideologies to the intolerant doctrines of the far-left and far-right blocs that now dominate the parliamentary opposition to Macron's centrist Renaissance party and its allies.

About 1,500 neo-Nazi, nationalist and other far-right militants are on the intelligence services' watch list as a security threat. After hundreds of serving and retired army officers signed a text threatening a coup d'état three years ago, the police have taken the radical right more seriously. Plots to overthrow the state have been exposed. In January, three far-right militants were imprisoned for plotting to attack Macron. Four young right-wing militants are to stand trial on similar charges next month.

Marine Le Pen, who has striven to detoxify the National Rally, the name she gave to the National Front after taking it over in 2011, was on the defensive last week after two of her former close associates attended the neo-Nazi march last Saturday. "How many years do I have to fight for people to understand what my ideas are?" she said on Friday. "These radical groups have always hated me and fought against me. They have no place in the National Rally."

ANDREW MEDICHINI/AP



Labour of Hercules A Vatican Museum restorer, Alice Baltera, repairs the sheen on a four-metre statue of the mythical hero that stood in an ancient Roman theatre

Sonar alerts for deadly crocodiles

Australia
Geoff Hiscock Sydney

A high-tech sonar warning system is the newest weapon in the battle against deadly saltwater crocodiles in the tropical north of Australia, where a man was recently killed at a popular fishing spot.

Kevin Darmody, 65, was attacked early this month as he fished on a river bank in a national park about 200 miles northwest of Cairns. His remains were found inside a crocodile following a two-day search that ended with police putting down two large specimens.

His death has led to renewed calls for a cull but the government in Queensland is sticking to its plan of non-lethal means to control them. It has between 20,000 and 30,000 saltwater crocodiles and they are growing in number.

The warning system uses multi-beam sonar with image recognition software to detect when a crocodile is in the water. It then sounds an alarm and sets off flashing lights. The first trials of the system, which will be introduced over the next three years, will be in the rivers of Cape York, near the northern tip of eastern Australia.

About 50 "problem crocodiles" are removed every year from Queensland, which are usually rehomed in crocodile farms. Saltwater crocodiles can grow up to 6m. They are aggressive hunters and can lie in wait for hours with most of their body hidden underwater.

Blow for eccentric prince in debt row

Belgium
Jonathan Ames

Interpol has snubbed the brother of the Belgian king by dropping a red notice for a senior Libyan official in a row over a €67 million debt.

Ali Mahmoud Hassan Mohammed, the chairman and chief executive of the Libyan Investment Authority, accused Prince Laurent of using his influence to persuade the country's authorities to drag him before a Belgian court.

At the end of 2021, following an application from Belgium, Interpol issued a red notice for Mohammed. The country has also issued a European arrest warrant for him, which would force any EU country to hand him over.

Laurent, 59, is the younger brother of King Philippe, and is viewed by some as the "cursed prince" for a number of faux pas, including appearing at a 90th anniversary event for the Chinese army but is well-liked by many Belgians.

The row with the head of Libya's sovereign wealth fund dates from 2011 when the UN security council froze all funds owned or controlled by the state.

That same year, a dispute arose between the Global Sustainable Development Trust, led by Prince Laurent, and Libya's agriculture ministry over frozen assets. The trust tried to recoup funds it claimed were owed because of an allegedly failed reforestation deal agreed with Colonel Gaddafi, the former leader of Libya, in 2008.

The €17 million claim has since ballooned to about €67 million from costs and interest. In 2014 a Belgian court ordered the Libyan ministry to pay compensation to the trust.

Now, officials at Interpol have ruled that retaining data on the Libyan was not compliant with its rules and have ordered the deletion of the red notice.

Mohammed's representatives hailed the decision as "a major victory" over the prince and the Belgian authorities, and predicted that it could lead to the lifting of the European arrest warrant, which they are also challenging.

Mohammed said he was "relieved" that Interpol "saw this case exactly for what it is — a politically motivated campaign against me ..."

Mohammed's lawyer, Kalilou Fadiga, who is based in London, said that the notice had been "one part of this campaign to seize [investment authority] funds inappropriately instead of resolving the dispute through the proper legal channels".

Prince Laurent and his lawyers have been contacted for comment.

Bullring protests are like a red rag to an angry crowd

Spain
Simon Hunter Madrid

Peter Jannsen has emerged battered and bruised from bullrings in Spain dozens of times.

He has not been facing a raging bull, however. Instead he confronts angry crowds and matadors as he protests against the cruelty of bullfighting. "I have broken my arm twice," he said. "From the 69 bullfights I have disturbed I have ended up in hospital six or seven times because of blows to my head."

The 37-year-old Dutchman jumps into the bullring to protest, invading two arenas in Madrid and one in Andalusia so far this month. Videos of his demonstrations show him removing his shirt to reveal slogans scrawled on his body. He is then dragged from the ring by the matador's assistants to be beaten by the crowd before he is rescued by officials. He said that without the police "they would kill me".

He asks, however, why the officers never charge his attackers. "They arrest me for an administrative offence," he said. "But the people who assault me are committing a criminal offence."

He founded Vegan Strike Group in 2013 to protest in countries where animals are used for entertainment, including a dolphin show in Japan. In his most dramatic action he embraced a dying bull in a Spanish ring. "I was the only one giving love to the animal," he said. "The rest just want to kill them."

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

King crabs were once a destructive pest but are now making the fishermen of Norway's Arctic north fabulously rich

Max Kendix

NORWAY





In the 1960s a Russian marine biologist, Yuri Orlov, had a brainwave. He wanted to replicate the thriving king crab fishing industry on the Pacific coast in the Murmansk fjord in the Soviet Arctic. With a few hundred crabs he brought back from Kamchatka, near Japan, he began the experiment and hoped for the best. Over the decades the species thrived, but one thing Orlov had overlooked was that the red king crab had no natural predators and the female could lay up to 500,000 eggs a year.

By the late 1970s the crabs had clambered along the Russian coast, over the border and were invading Norway. For the local fishing industry of Bugoynes, a village 30 miles from Russia, it was a disaster.

"They were scary," Leif, 72, who claims the honoured title of fishing the first king crab in Norway, tells me as we sail out on the fjord in the Barents Sea for the latest catch.

The creatures are among the world's largest arthropods and back then they could weigh up to 10kg, with a leg span of 1.8 metres. One of the ways they cause destruction is by getting tangled in fishing nets and eating the bait. "I didn't know what to do with them. I started stamping on them in anger," Leif said.



Fishermen say they have to hide money in their pillows, given the thousands of king crab they haul up and the sums diners will pay to eat the meat

The crabs decimated the local fishing industry and sent Bugoynes into decline. "In 1988, we were bankrupt. We even put the village up for sale," he said.

Then, their fortunes changed.

In the fine-food circles of Europe, customers began clamouring for king crab, with restaurants ready to pay top prices for the high-quality meat. "Then there was an explosion," Leif said, grinning. "Now, we are fishing for gold."

Bugoynes fishermen can get about €50 per kilo for the crabs — nearly ten times more than they receive for the smaller brown crab found further south.

Each king crab weighs about 4kg, with each catch netting thousands. By the time they make it on to the menu, they could set customers back hundreds of pounds for a main course.

Before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Norway's crab fishermen were competing with their Russian neighbours. Now they don't even have that. With sanctions imposed on Russia, Norway has a European monopoly.

"Money, money, lots of money. We are all millionaires in Bugoynes," boasts Leif. "But I do not show off, I put the cash under my bed, in my pillow."

As we come to the end of our day, we haul the net up and inspect our catch. It's brimming with the ruddy beasts. Some have lost legs in the battle for space and mating partners.

Even with 700 fishing boats scattered across the water — up from just two 30 years ago — there is still an abundance of crabs at these depths.

But marine researchers fear the crabs are marching further and further west, threatening fish stocks and seabed fauna along Britain's coast. The Norwegian government has ordered their eradication west of the North Cape, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Arctic Sea.

Fishermen here, however, don't appear worried. "The sea floor is no good for them and there are mountains under the water. They'll stay where they are," Tor, another fisherman, says. Orlov probably thought the same thing.



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Torrential rain brings in flood of gold prospectors

United States
Keiran Southern Jamestown

Ankle-deep in a muddy creek in the Sierra Nevada foothills, Nathaniel Prebalick wiped the sweat from his brow as he scooped dirt into a bucket, sifting through it in the hope of spotting a flicker of gold.

Prebalick, who is 26 and has been panning gold since he was six, acknowledged the work was unpredictable. "There's no better feeling than finding gold but I'll tell you something: one of the worst feelings is when you work all day and don't find anything," he said.

It is also gruelling work, borrowing many techniques from the miners who first excavated the region. "If it was easy, there wouldn't be a single thing left for anybody," he said, using a pickaxe to break apart rocks before running the sediment through a sluice box.

But now a new gold rush is under way in California after months of torrential rain pounded the rivers and hills of the Sierra Nevada, exposing gold that the 19th-century miners could not reach.

"The floods washed the gold into the streams," said Nick Prebalick, who runs a panning business in Jamestown with his son, Nathaniel, and his father, Terry. "The old miners only found 15 per cent of the gold that's here and far more has been dislodged by the rains. We've had three times as many visitors already this year. And so far we've found about ten ounces of gold with our groups, which compares to the ounce or two we'd discovered by this time last year."



Nathaniel Prebalick says there's no better feeling than striking gold

The first gold rush was started in 1848 by James Marshall, a carpenter of English descent who was building a lumber mill at a small settlement in northern California when a glittering object in the American River caught his eye. He reached into the clear water and from a crevice pulled what was later confirmed to be gold.

Despite his best efforts to conceal the discovery, about 300,000 people poured into the state in the years that followed, all seeking their fortune.

The Prebalicks have been involved in gold-seeking since the late 1970s. Terry Prebalick had moved to California from Minnesota and was working as a printer on a local newspaper when he sat down to eat his lunch next to a creek. He watched as an elderly man carefully working a sluice box jumped up and called him over.

The man was clutching a 3.5oz nugget, which sold for $3,500. Prebalick Sr was hooked. "The next weekend I went and bought a whole bunch of pans and a shovel and went down to the river," he said.

Prebalick Sr, 71, developed such a knack for sniffing out gold that he became a full-time seeker. His greatest find was a pocket near the river holding gold weighing 127oz, which he could sell today for about $200,000. "After all these years I've got this metal detector in my head and I can sniff the gold out," he said.

The family's panning tours cater to schools and corporate clients, as well as individuals hoping to strike it rich. With the price of gold now above $2,000 an ounce, Nick Prebalick believes that with a keen eye and a bit of luck, fortunes can still be made."

Thailand opposition on course to oust generals

Thailand
Philip Sherwell Bangkok

Thailand's opposition pro-democracy parties are on course for victory in national elections in a rebuff of the generals who have ruled, in and out of uniform, since a coup in 2014.

Move Forward, which has called for reforms of the powerful monarchy, led the field with 60 per cent of the vote counted.

Pheu Thai, the party of Thaksin Shinawatra, the exiled former prime minister and a bête noire of the establishment, held a narrow second place.

Pro-military parties led by General Prayut Chan-o-cha, the prime minister who staged the 2014 putsch, and his civilian allies trailed distantly.

Move Forward led in every constituency in Bangkok, but victory would cause consternation in the traditional factions and raise the stakes for another military or judicial intervention to block the democratic will.

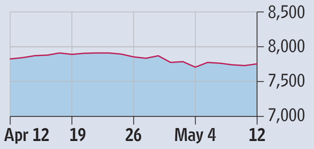
Move Forward and Pheu Thai are new iterations of parties previously disbanded by junta-appointed judges. The military also ousted the governments of Thaksin in 2006 and his sister Yingluck in 2014 in coups.

Even securing a majority of the new 500-strong lower house by Move Forward and Pheu Thai MPs will not necessarily deliver control of the next government. The 250 senators appointed by the last junta also have a vote in the choice of prime minister.

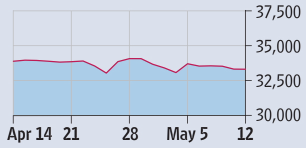
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Friday's close. Change on the week)

FTSE 100
7,754.62 (-23.76) ▼

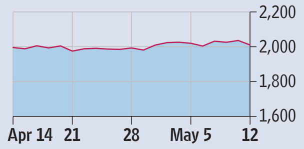


Dow Jones
33,224.84 (-449.54) ▼

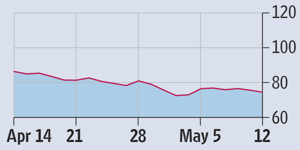


COMMODITIES

Gold
$2,010.48 (-3.13) ▼

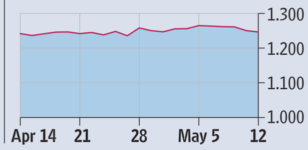


Brent crude (6pm)
$74.50 (-0.81) ▼

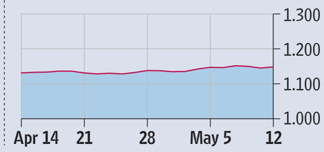


CURRENCIES

£/$
$1.2463 (-0.0185) ▼



£/€
€1.1481 (+0.0011) ▲



MICHAL AUGUSTINI/SHUTTERSTOCK



Record profits The London-based PPL, which collects licence income for the use of music by stars such as Ellie Goulding, took £272.6 million in 2022, the most in 89 years

Red lights flashing over Capita's 'BBC upgrade'

Licence fee project work is over budget and behind schedule

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

A project to update the technology behind the BBC's licence fee is behind schedule, over budget and considered to be in a critical state by Capita, the outsourcing company responsible for it.

The project has been classified within Capita as "red", needing urgent attention, on an internal traffic-light system.

Capita is responsible for administering the licence fee on behalf of the broadcaster in a five-year deal worth £456 million, after it won an extension to its contract last year. The most recent BBC report on the licence fee presented to parliament said the IT upgrades Capita was overseeing "pose a risk to the collection of the licence fee should problems occur".

The BBC's agreement with Capita relates not only to bringing in money from households and dealing with communications, but also the technology behind it. It manages a database of 30 million UK addresses and payment details for 25 million customers.

As part of winning the extension, the BBC required Capita to oversee "significant IT upgrades", according to the BBC TV licence fee trust statement for the year to the end of March 2022, which is presented each year to parliament reviewing the state of the licence fee.

Technological issues that need resolving include finding a replacement for IBM, the corporation's partner, which will stop hosting the licence fee website from August. Information must be moved between data centres, systems need to be integrated and software upgraded. It is understood that the BBC is withholding payment from Capita because of setbacks that have meant the company is more than £1.5 million above budget.

Progress has "been slower than planned to varying degrees", the trust's report said. "Existing technology infrastructure features complex, heavily customised legacy systems, most of which, although stable, are out of support and are challenging to modify."

Capita employs 52,000 people in Britain, Europe, India and South Africa. It is the British government's largest software and IT services provider.

In March it was hit by a cyberattack in which data was taken from less than 0.1 per cent of its servers. On Friday it was revealed that this may have included information from 470,000 members of the Universities Superannuation Scheme, including their national insurance numbers. Dealing with the fallout could cost Capita up to £20 million.

Capita has been the BBC's partner for more than 20 years and has more than a thousand people working on the account. The BBC's licence fee is the bedrock of the broadcaster's funding. The money paid by British households in 2021-22 came to £3.8 billion, more than two thirds of its income, supplemented with commercial funds and other activities of £1.5 billion. One City analyst said the licence fee was worth about 3 per cent of Capita's revenues.

A BBC spokesman said: "The BBC has a longstanding partnership with Capita, which includes technology projects to make improvements for audiences. Work on these continues."

Capita declined to comment.

BBC contract holds keys to bigger picture for Capita, pages 32-33

BP refuses increased payouts for pensioners

Helen Cahill

BP has rebuffed an appeal from its pension trustees to increase payouts to help thousands of retired staff to manage the "challenging set of circumstances" raised by the energy crisis from which it has generated record profits.

The oil and gas group's pension trustees have written to 69,000 members of its defined-benefit scheme to tell them BP had made the "disappointing" decision to decline a discretionary increase above the scheme's cap of 5 per cent. The trustees had told retirees in November that they were approaching the company because of "the impact of the conflict in Ukraine" and the "difficulties caused for many of you by these latest developments".

BP made record profits of $28 billion last year. The pay of Bernard Looney, 52, its chief executive, more than doubled to £10 million, with a £1.4 million salary, a £2.4 million annual bonus and a long-term share bonus of £6 million.

Brendan Nelson, chairman of BP Pension Trustees Limited, told its members that it would "continue to keep this matter under review" and that later this year it would "carefully consider" the pension increase that becomes effective from May 1, 2024.

BP has argued that it would not be appropriate to grant a more generous award to the defined-benefit scheme members as it must consider the position of retirees in its defined-contribution scheme and others that do not have access to guaranteed pension increases. A spokeswoman said BP recognised the cost of living crisis was a "very difficult time for many people".

Looney has been asked to meet a group of pension scheme members who are campaigning for more generous increases. They have pointed out that many FTSE 100 companies have matched the 10.1 per cent award given to civil servants, doctors and teachers.

In a letter to Looney, the group said the pension fund was in "rude financial health", that "a pension increase matching inflation could easily be sustained" and that "a company with the resources and balance sheet strength such as BP should surely be looking to level up its support for its most vulnerable stakeholders rather than level it down to a lowest common denominator".

BP disclosed in its recent results that it had set aside a substantial sum for staff bonuses after making profits of £4 billion. Murray Auchincloss, BP's chief financial officer, told analysts that bonus payments had represented the lion's share of a $1.4 billion charge announced in May.

Need to know

1 Energy bills should fall within six weeks, Grant Shapps has predicted. The energy secretary acknowledged that while wholesale prices were returning to "normal" levels, households had yet to see that reflected in their bills. **Page 2**

2 Britain and Switzerland will open talks today on a new trade deal as the government attempts to bounce back from a row with Tory MPs over scrapping European Union laws. **Page 2**

3 Liz Truss has been given tens of thousands of pounds in funding by the investment banker behind the Reclaim Party as she seeks to rebrand herself as a victim of the "anti-growth coalition". The most recent declaration of interests reveals the former prime minister was handed £50,000 last month by Jeremy Hosking, who donated £1.7 million to Vote Leave in 2016. **Page 7**

4 A project to update the technology behind the BBC's licence fee is behind schedule, over budget and considered to be in a critical state by Capita, the outsourcing company responsible for it. The project has been classified within Capita as "red", the colour given to work that requires urgent attention. **Page 31**

5 BP has rebuffed an appeal from its pension trustees to increase payouts to help thousands of retired staff to manage the tough circumstances raised by the energy crisis from which it has generated record profits. **Page 31**

6 Britain must overcome its lack of economic influence if it is to become a technology superpower, an industry body has said. The sector was worth $1 trillion last year and employs three million people, but its influence lags others including the United States, China and the European Union, techUK said.

7 The John Lewis Partnership, the employee-owned retailer, has lost sight of its "core ethos" of focusing on customers and colleagues amid pressure to deliver "short-term" results, Neil Stead, a former Waitrose loyalty chief, has claimed. **Page 34**

8 Rarely, if ever, have the stakes been higher for the British Chambers of Commerce at its annual global conference in Westminster on Wednesday as the 160-year-old organisation seeks to press its credentials as a successor to the CBI. **Page 36**

9 Private equity investors are set to be subject to a wave of takeover bids after listed funds with assets worth £17.3 billion were valued by public markets at only £10.9 billion. **Page 37**

10 When Paul Sherratt's son suggested he try TikTok to drive sales for gloveglu, a spray he invented to make goalkeeper gloves more grippy, Sherratt didn't take him too seriously. Two years on, Sherratt says the social media platform has been key in his Oxfordshire company's international expansion. He expects sales to reach £2.5 million this year. **Times Enterprise Network, pages 38-39**

BBC contract holds key to bigger picture for Capita

A high profile brings with it extra scrutiny and greater pressure on the outsourcer, reports **Katie Prescott**

At Capita's annual general meeting last week, shareholders posed questions to the board about executive pay, the company's recent cyberattack and its profit margins.

Significantly, one stood up to ask why she was being sent letters chasing her to pay the BBC's licence fee. "I personally do not have a digital signal into my home, but every month I get a letter from Capita and these letters are a waste of money," she said.

"I'm from a generation where several of my friends have no interest in seeing the television and don't have one. It is not acceptable telling me that I'm a criminal for not having a TV licence when I don't have a TV on my property."



Capita looks after the administration of the BBC's licence fee, a lucrative and high-profile contract, and the outburst hinted at the problems the outsourcer has been having with it. It is also a political hot potato, amid controversy over its mechanics, the criminalising of those who fail to pay and whether it represents value for money. One former BBC board member called it a "toxic subject".

The debate over the suitability of the licence fee has raged for decades. Capita took over the management of the levy from the Post Office in a £500 million, ten-year contract in 2002 and has run it ever since. Its latest contract extension is worth £456 million over five years.

The company has a thousand people working on maximising the public broadcaster's revenue, while cracking down on evasion and overseeing technology that manages a database containing details of 30 million UK addresses and payment details for 25 million customers.

All viewing devices are covered by the fee, which must be paid for watching or downloading BBC TV programmes. In an increasingly digital world, the corporation has plans to increase its use of different channels, such as email, text, chatbots and social media, to communicate with customers.

The latest licence fee evaders come from Britain's pensioners. The over-75s recently started to have to pay the fee, after a change made under George Osborne when he was chancellor, and they're vocal about their irritation. Evasion rates have risen from 5.2 per cent in 2011-12 to 8.9 per cent in 2021-22, with the policy change thought to be the main driver for that increase.

Dealing with this is tough. In 2017, the Daily Mail newspaper claimed that Capita staff, in order to hit weekly targets, were targeting vulnerable people in an effort to catch more numbers not paying the BBC's licence fee. The company disputed that any bonus scheme existed for prosecutions, but the investigation was damaging, nonetheless.

For Capita, the job is not only about customer service and collecting licence fee revenue effectively, but also upgrading several IT systems and working with the corporation as technical partners, such as IBM, move on. It includes overseeing planned upgrades of the marketing management tool and parts of the licence fee collection's IT system.

This is where tensions with the corporation appear to be bubbling to the surface. "More work has been required than expected due to the complexity of the upgrades needed, the number of different stakeholders involved and the interdependencies across various IT systems," the BBC reported last year. Tim Davie, the BBC's director-general, and Jon Lewis, the boss of Capita, hold regular meetings to discuss the contract.

The £1.5 million overspend and

Channelling resources



Jon Lewis, the Capita boss, left, faced questions at the annual general meeting

Creditors 'lose out' in Bristol battle

Alex Ralph
Chief Business Correspondent

The liquidator of AstraZeneca's former manufacturing site near Bristol has criticised the behaviour of the group that acquired the plant for "delaying and diminishing" returns to creditors.

Administrators were appointed to the Avlon site in 2019, about two years after AstraZeneca, Britain's biggest drugs company, had sold it to Avara, a contract manufacturer owned by Leonard Levie, 67, a former Lehman Brothers banker-turned-industrial investor, for £1.

Avara Avlon Pharma Services, the subsidiary that owned the facility, is now being liquidated by insolvency practitioners from Begbies Traynor after a protracted sale of the site to EDC, a Canadian property company, for about £18.5 million.

The collapse of the factory has been contentious. In July 2019 AstraZeneca agreed to set aside up to £12 million to pay enhanced redundancy for Avlon staff amid criticism from MPs, unions and staff. Former employees at Avlon had accused AstraZeneca of an alleged lack of due diligence on the sale and of issuing misleading information to staff. AstraZeneca denied the claims and told Avlon staff that "AstraZeneca is setting aside this funding as Avara has failed to meet its obligations".

The latest liquidator's report shows that the Avara group companies have submitted creditor claims of £6.1 million, but Begbies said the figure "does not agree with the company records we have reviewed or with the certified statement of affairs signed by both directors … It is most unfortunate that the behaviour of the Avara Group … is significantly delaying and diminishing the distribution to the company's general body of creditors."

The returns to unsecured creditors had been helped by JP Morgan, the investment bank that had registered a charge over the assets, formerly agreeing not to make a claim. However, Begbies said JP Morgan, a secured creditor, was now claiming its security was valid and this had resulted in Begbies having to delay declaring a dividend for unsecured creditors.

Last month a court in the United States rejected JP Morgan's attempts to appoint a receiver over the assets of another Avara group drugs plant in Oklahoma in a dispute over Avara's debts to the bank.

A spokesman for Levie said: "While it is regrettable that AstraZeneca's decision to terminate a contract pushed the Bristol manufacturing site into insolvency, American Industrial Acquisition Corporation [the investment firm Levie founded and chairs] and Avara remain proud that they extended the life of the Bristol site by 2.5 years beyond AstraZeneca's stated termination date and that they have saved thousands of jobs … They are also pleased that AstraZeneca finally — if belatedly — made good on its legal obligation to pay its former employees the enhanced redundancy payout AstraZeneca promised them."

JP Morgan declined to comment.

Musk's new chief tweets her support

Arthi Nachiappan

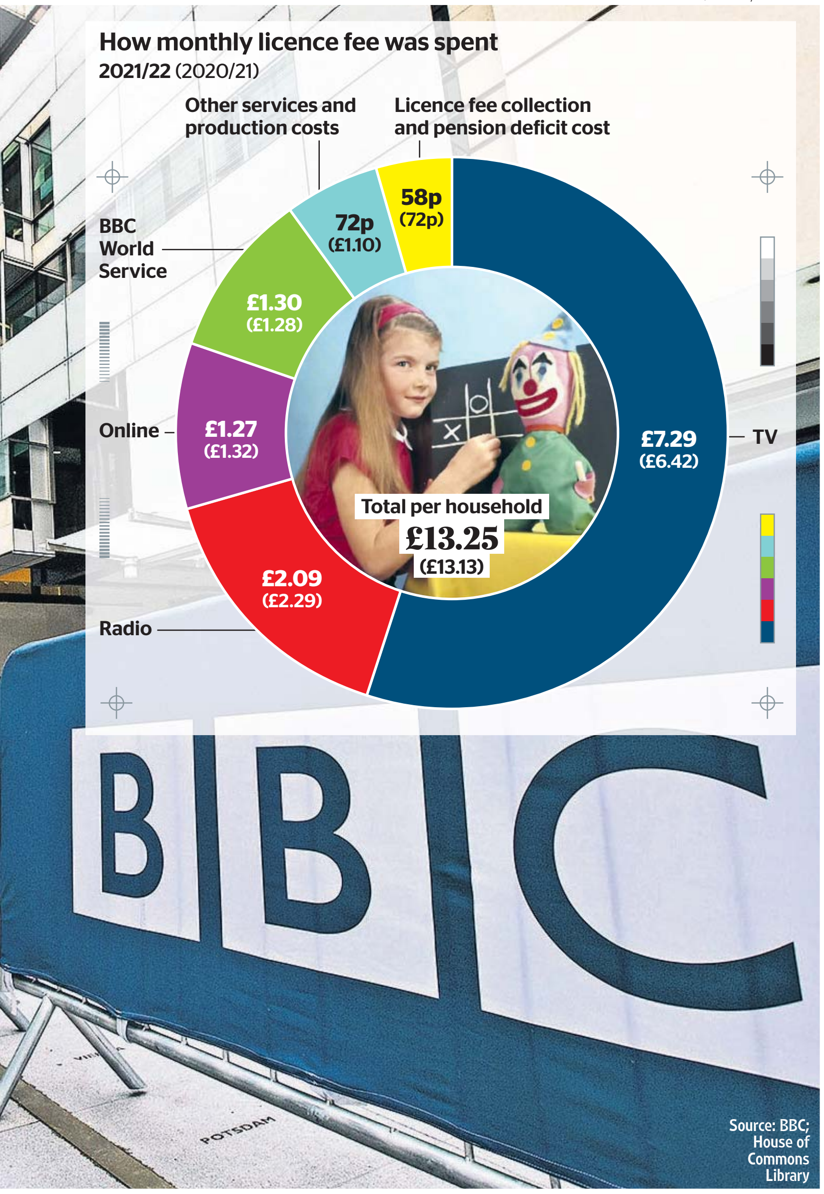
The new boss of Twitter said she had been inspired by Elon Musk's vision to "create a brighter future" and wanted to help to transform the fortunes of the troubled social media network.

Linda Yaccarino's tweet over the weekend marked the first time she had publicly addressed her appointment as chief executive of Twitter after it was announced on Thursday.

Musk, who has been chief executive since his $44 billion buyout of the company last October, said on Friday that Yaccarino, 59, an American advertising executive, would focus primarily on business operations while he focused on product design and new technology.

Thanking Musk, 51, Yaccarino tweeted: "I've long been inspired by

OLI SCARFF/GETTY IMAGES



about the huge BBC contract, under which it collects the corporation's licence fee

delays to the technology upgrade programme being reported by The Times may be a small part of the overall deal, but they are highly sensitive.

As one former BBC executive put it: "It is the single biggest part of the BBC's revenue, so getting a good deal for the licence fee contract is a huge issue.

"The BBC does sometimes pull the trigger on contracts, for example with the Met Office, which had provided weather forecasts for the corporation since 1922. MeteoGroup took over in 2018."

The handling of the licence fee is as much about Capita's reputation as the BBC's. At the annual meeting, Lewis set out the challenges the business faced when he joined to turn it around in 2017: "I was brought in to be CEO of this company because it was facing an existential crisis.

"It was going to go out of business. It had too much debt, it had won a series of contracts it couldn't deliver, it had a cancerous culture in which clients were not central to our operations. The company had gone on a buying spree."

He even noted that "there was an R in our name five years ago", referring to the "Crapita" moniker given to the company by Private Eye, the satirical magazine, after it detailed the company's numerous public contract failings.

Capita may have changed, but the headaches have not gone away. In recent months, it has been the victim of a cyberattack, a significant event for any business but particularly to an outsourcer so crucial to the public sector.

A group of Russian hackers calling themselves Black Basta have claimed responsibility for the hit. The company has declined to comment on whether it negotiated with the hackers or has paid them a ransom, but it is still dealing with the fallout caused by the breach, which Capita pointed out had affected less than 0.1 per cent of its computer servers.

On Friday, in the most serious public revelation about the attack so far, the Universities Superannuation Scheme, Britain's biggest private sector pension scheme, warned that 470,000 of its members may have had their data stolen, including dates of birth and national insurance numbers. Capita is investigating the incident and says it is "informing those we have identified to be affected". The hack could cost the business up to £20 million, it said last week.

£456m

Value of the latest five-year BBC contract extension for Capita
Times Research

Lewis said at the annual meeting that the business "has been saved. Our renewal rate of contracts with existing clients is currently at 98 per cent, which says something about how they value the service."

In its most recent financial results, Capita swung back to an underlying profit in 2022 of £73.8 million from a loss of £122.8 million the year before. When Lewis, 61, joined Capita, its debt was some way above £1 billion; it now stands at £85 million and by the summer the company is expected to have more cash in the bank than debts on its books.

Nevertheless, not everyone agrees that the turnaround is complete. One City analyst remarked that Capita "is still in catch-up mode. It will take another two or three years to get the business back to where directors would like it to be."

This is why protecting its reputation with its key contracts, such as that with the BBC, is vital to its comeback.

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your vision to create a brighter future. I'm excited to help bring this vision to Twitter and transform this business together!" She said user feedback was vital to building "Twitter 2.0 together".

In her previous job Yaccarino, who will begin in the role in six weeks' time, oversaw the merger of NBCUniversal and Comcast to create NBCUniversal. On Friday she stepped down as chairwoman of global advertising and partnerships at NBCUniversal after two years.



Linda Yaccarino said she had "long been inspired" by Musk's vision

Twitter's many challenges include a big debt burden, the loss of most of its staff and plummeting advertising revenue.

Musk intends to expand Twitter's use to include services such as peer-to-peer payments in what he called an "everything" app that would create new sources of revenue.

Technology groups in need of 'more backing and guidance'

Arthi Nachiappan
Economics Correspondent

Britain must overcome its lack of economic influence if it is to become a global technology superpower, an industry body has warned.

The sector was worth $1 trillion last year and employs three million people, but its influence worldwide lags behind peers including the United States, China and the European Union, according to techUK.

The industry group, which has 970 member companies, said the scope for impactful new trade agreements was narrow. The UK's recent accession into the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trading alliance including the likes of Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan and Mexico, was expected to add only 0.08 per cent to gross domestic product, it said.

The report puts further pressure on the government, which has pledged to make Britain a science and technology superpower by 2030. In recent weeks, policymakers have faced criticism from Microsoft and Revolut about the environment for technology businesses in the UK.

Even though Britain had the largest technology sector in Europe, it was not ready to subsidise important parts of the sector, such as semiconductors, to the extent that China, America and the EU had done, techUK argued. It also called on the government to provide technology companies with more guidance to handle political tensions between countries.

Sabina Ciofu, associate director for international trade at techUK, said technology companies were "increasingly finding themselves in the middle of geopolitical tensions and international competition" and [start-ups] were "particularly under-equipped" to deal with the impact "on supply chains and growth prospects".

The week ahead

The commercial property market endured a rough few months after the chaos sparked by September's mini-budget. As bond yields spiralled, property yields followed, denting the value of everything from offices to warehouses.

The feeling in the industry was that the devaluations, though rapid and sharp, would be short-lived and there have been murmurs from some property bosses in recent weeks that the market is beginning to stabilise.

Investors will have a better idea as to whether the worst of the pain in the commercial property market has been and gone when Land Securities and British Land, the pair of FTSE 100 landlords, report their annual results tomorrow and on Wednesday, respectively.

In the year to the end of March, commercial property values fell by about 17 per cent, according to MSCI, the global index provider. With that as a benchmark, it will be interesting to see how both group's portfolios fare. Expect to hear more about the "flight to quality" as occupiers across all property types demand the greenest, most modern space.



Commercial property has been hit by the effects of the mini-budget

Analysts expect British Land's net tangible asset per share, a key metric for property companies, to be about 613p, down from 727p a year ago and from 695p at the half-year stage in November. Landsec's net tangible asset value is forecast to fall to 920p from £10.63 last spring.

TOMORROW

Vodafone's full-year results will be the first opportunity for Margherita Della Valle, who was appointed as its chief executive last month, to set out her plans for the FTSE 100 telecoms group. Investors' attention is likely to fall less on Vodafone's trading and more on Della Valle's vow to begin "necessary transformation" of the company. The focus will include progress on Vodafone's late-stage plans to merge its British business with that of Three UK. Elsewhere in Europe, analysts at Berenberg expect Germany, Italy and Spain again to report declining organic service revenues for the fourth quarter. Those at UBS forecast group adjusted earnings of €13.2 billion, a 1.6 per cent organic decline.

Interims Britvic, Imperial Brands, Marston's, On the Beach, Renew, Shoe Zone
Finals Angling Direct, Boohoo, Cornerstone FS, DCC, Land Securities, Likewise, Vodafone
Trading update Greggs

WEDNESDAY

Investors will have a fuller picture of how Experian is faring in the tougher economic environment when the credit-checking group unveils its full-year figures. Analysts expect the FTSE 100 company to report a rise in earnings before interest and taxes to about $1.8 billion from $1.6 billion a year earlier, on revenues forecast to climb to $6.6 billion from $6.3 billion. Experian provides credit assessment tools and data. There is speculation it could face headwinds as interest rates rise. Brian Cassin, its chief executive, said in its last trading update that "while pressures in the global economy are likely to continue for some time, we expect to remain resilient".

Interims Auction Technology, Sage
Finals British Land, Experian, Ninety One
Trading updates Bank Of Georgia, Coats, Watches Of Switzerland



Brian Cassin: Experian "resilient"

FRIDAY

Finals Nationwide Building Society
Interims Titon

THURSDAY

After Vodafone earlier in the week, it is the turn of BT Group, its telecoms rival, to report full-year numbers. Analysts at Jefferies are forecasting earnings growth accelerating to 5.9 per cent to deliver full-year profits of £7.9 billion, compared with company guidance of at least £7.9 billion. The broker reckons price inflation should "materially" reinforce BT's revenue growth over the next 12 months, giving it a tailwind of £700 million. It has helped shares in BT to rebound strongly this year, although the challenges of the resumption of wage negotiations with unions this summer and the risk of unquoted pension scheme assets being written down at the triennial review will come into focus.

Elsewhere, investors have been prepared for substantial losses when easyJet reveals its half-year trading figures. The FTSE 250 airline told the City last month that adjusted pre-tax losses had narrowed to £415 million over the first six months of the year, from £545 million over the same period last year. Analysts have pencilled in a return to a pre-tax profit of £276 million for the full year, rising to £372 million next year.

Interims easyJet, Nexus Infrastructure
Finals BT Group, Burberry, International Distributions Services, Investec, National Grid, Premier Foods
Trading updates Convatec, Energean, Helios Towers

Mini-budget topped 'a series of unfortunate events' as Made.com failed

Dominic Walsh

Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget has been blamed for many things, but causing the collapse of an online furniture company only 15 months after a £775 million flotation is one of the more unusual examples.

In a new podcast that discusses the demise of Made.com under her leadership, Nicola Thompson pinpointed "three big components" — freight container costs, a post-Ukraine invasion slump in millennials' spending and "just in time" manufacturing issues.

She cited "a series of unfortunate events" and said there were "so many things layered together to make the survival of Made.com an impossible task".

She claimed that the infamous mini-budget delivered by Kwarteng last September had "effectively shut down all exit routes" and had increased costs because of its impact on exchange rates. It had provided an "extreme example of why business demands stability from government".

Just as Thompson was moving up to permanent chief executive from an interim role, Russia invaded Ukraine, while the death of the Queen a few months later came as the company was seeking to raise up to £70 million to cover its losses.

"They caused a consumer shock in terms of sentiment and demand took another wobble," she told a podcast organised by All Together, a social enterprise helping chief executives of small companies to build better businesses.

Made was floated in June 2021. In March last year, Thompson, 45, was appointed as its permanent chief executive. She had been chief operating officer. The brand and intellectual property was acquired by Next, the fashion retailer, last November.

It faced difficulties as shopping habits unwound after the pandemic and as supply chain issues drove up costs. The change in consumer sentiment meant that "you need four times as many orders just to stand still, then you have a weakening of demand which reduces volumes", Thompson said.

She acknowledged that "furniture is not an essential purchase and we know travel is highly discretionary, too, but after two years of being locked up, if you were going to prioritise going away on holiday versus buying a new sofa, I think getting out of the house would win that debate".

John Lewis told to 'get back to basics'

Isabella Fish Retail Editor



JOHN STILLWELL/PA

The days of a double-digit annual bonus, in 2015, seem distant today. The John Lewis Partnership cancelled staff bonuses in March for the second time in three years

The John Lewis Partnership has lost sight of its "core ethos" of focusing on customers and colleagues amid pressure to deliver "short-term" results, a former Waitrose loyalty chief has claimed.

Neil Stead, former manager of customer loyalty at myWaitrose, the supermarket chain's loyalty scheme for members, said the employee-owned retailer should stop focusing on "low-hanging fruit" and regain its focus on customers to get back to its "former glory".

Stead, who was responsible for introducing free newspapers and hot drinks for Waitrose loyalty card customers, as well as other perks, said: "Throughout my time within the John Lewis Partnership, I always worked with a customer-first mentality and that our partners came a very close second.

"Towards the end of my 30 years, though, I felt the focus had turned to profit and specifically short-term sales. Obviously, I recognise that a business's success is measured in the profit made, but I've always believed that it comes as a result of ensuring your customers and employees come first."

The partnership has come under pressure in recent years, with losses at the former high street retail stalwart widening to £234 million in its latest results. Dame Sharon White, its chairwoman, considered plans to raise funds by selling a minority stake in the business, thus diluting its partnership model, which caused uproar among staff and industry veterans. Last week the partnership's council voted to support her in continuing to lead the group, but was critical of its latest financial performance.

White has been urged by customers and industry onlookers to restore the partnership's reputation as the champion of customer service to revive its fortunes, instead of excessive cost-cutting and focusing too heavily on new revenue streams such as building residential rental homes.

Stead joined the partnership in 1990 as a retail skills trainee, before working in senior customer data and marketing roles. He left the business in 2021 as part of a company-wide restructuring and now owns a business consultancy.



Waitrose restored its free coffee offer to loyalty card members in November

He said: "I'm sure it will one day return to its former glory, but clearly it needs to adapt to the ever-changing retail horizon, which has not been helped by the huge impact seen through the global pandemic. It must regain sight of its customers, not just the low-hanging fruit, and its partners."

He said that during the development and launch of the company's loyalty scheme, its ethos had been "'it's not about our customers' loyalty to us, it's about our loyalty to our customer'. By investing in your customer, you drive longer-term loyalty, value and profit."

The myWaitrose scheme has more than nine million members.

Last month John Lewis unveiled partnerships with Dunnhumby and Eagle Eye, the customer loyalty and marketing experts, in an attempt to improve its relationships with customers. The department stores retailer also has appointed Emily Wells as its first head of loyalty to oversee Waitrose and John Lewis. Her responsibilities will include developing a loyalty proposition that is due to be launched next year. The John Lewis Partnership said the move formed part of its "continued focus on growing and deepening relationships with our 20 million customers who shop with John Lewis, John Lewis Finance and Waitrose across our stores, websites and apps."

A spokeswoman for John Lewis said: "We continuously strive to delight our customers through fantastic service from our partners, quality products that have been sourced ethically and affordable ranges. Our customer numbers remain strong, which is the most positive sign of customer loyalty."

Our takeover of Cadbury did it a favour, says Mondelez boss

Dominic Walsh

When the company now known as Mondelez launched a hostile £11.5 billion takeover bid for Cadbury in 2009, it appeared to have few supporters. Trade unions, politicians and even investors opposed the deal, with Lord Mandelson, the business secretary at the time, accusing the predator of seeking to "turn round a short-term profit and make a quick buck".

Now the boss of Mondelez has moved to defend its actions. Dirk Van de Put claimed Cadbury had needed to be taken over to improve its flagging fortunes, insisting that Mondelez had made the British chocolate company a much better business since the deal's completion in 2010.

"It's like you're sick and you need to take some medicine," the Chicago-based consumer group's chief executive told The Sunday Telegraph. "We took some medicine, but in the end the business is in a much better position than it was when we took it over."

When the takeover happened, Cadbury accounted for about 10 per cent of the global confectionery market and commanded three times that level of market share in Britain. Despite the economic downturn at that time, its sales rose by 11 per cent to £1.3 billion in 2009. Sales were about £1.8 billion last year and its UK market share remains at about the same level as when it was acquired.

The Belgium-born Van de Put, 62, argued that over the past decade Mondelez had injected almost £300 million of investment into the chocolate group's factories. "Look at the health of Cadbury as a brand and as a business now and when we took it over. The numbers, the consumers: it's night and day," he said.

Van de Put conceded that cost inflation had pushed up the prices of its chocolates and snacks, but insisted Mondelez was not boosting its profits; instead, its margins had gone down.

Fears that Mondelez, then part of the Kraft food business, would break its promise to keep Cadbury at Bournville, its historic Midlands base, appeared more likely after it shut a Cadbury plant in Bristol with the ink still barely dry on the deal. It was criticised by the Takeover Panel, the regulatory body.

On top of opposition from the Cadbury workforce, local people and the government, the takeover sparked a warning from unions that as many as 30,000 jobs could be at risk, which caused picketing outside the chocolate group's headquarters. Legal & General opposed the takeover of the "iconic and unique British company" by what was then Kraft Foods.

Mark Littlewood



Rather than making lenders 'safe', we should make their failure safe

If there's one good reason to fear we might be on the brink of another full-scale banking crisis, it's the fact so many experts and commentators seem determined to reassure us this is not the case. If you could see the crisis coming, you'd probably be able to avert it.

Perhaps the collapse of several banks in recent weeks will be an isolated and containable problem, but the underlying nervousness that we might yet see a repeat of the 2008 crisis (even if it is on a more limited scale) raises questions over whether we've truly fixed the banking industry in regulatory terms.

The broad response to the banking meltdown 15 years ago was to return confidence to the sector by making banks safer and ensuring depositors felt secure that their money was guaranteed. A run on the banks is caused by an initial panic — rational or not — that swiftly becomes a stampede. Removing risk from the system, the theory went, would radically reduce the chances of queues of nervous individuals desperately seeking their life savings in cash.

On the face of it, one can understand the appeal of such an approach, but we may be about to discover that we are looking at the problem down the wrong end of the telescope. Rather than seeking to make banks safe, we should make bank failure safe.

First, we need to recognise that although banks can be complex financial institutions, at root they are merely businesses and need to be subject to the same sort of creative destruction that affects and improves other sectors of the economy. A scenario in which no bank ever fails is a recipe for stagnation and ossification. Under-performers need to be driven from the market to make way for leaner, fitter, more agile alternatives.



First Republic's collapse was the second-largest bank failure in US history

Second, even if we wanted to eliminate, or even radically reduce, bank failures, our chances of doing so seem limited. Since the turn of the millennium, there have been only five calendar years in which no American bank has collapsed and a total of 566 have done so over that period.

It's true that the peak for failures was the global financial crisis, but it would be wholly wrong to imagine that only rare and occasional events cause banks to go pop. A full year in which no bank goes to the wall is the exception, not the norm. Since 1930, in America there have been an average of about three bank or credit union failures every month. Ominously, the period leading up to the implosion of Silicon Valley Bank was the longest stretch of time without a bank collapse in the United States. This may suggest the banking system is brittle rather than robust.

Third, providing ever greater assurances to depositors injects a big problem into the system. In the US, deposit insurance is being guaranteed to $250,000, but this has serious knock-on effects. JP Morgan faces paying enhanced levies of about $1.5 billion as result. Costs will be passed on to customers.

Worse still is the economic problem of moral hazard. If your losses at a poker table were underwritten by the state, you'd play recklessly. The same logic applies to bank deposits. Indeed, academic literature suggests that until the banking crisis, depositors were minded to use their financial power to punish banks engaged in risky behaviour, but this tendency has waned since the advent of state bailouts.

Fourth, in a drive to bring about regulatory safety, we are increasing systemic risk. More than 50,000 new financial regulations have been introduced in Britain since the banking crash. No doubt these have been crafted to fight the last war and fend off a repeat of the disaster of 2008, but the consequence is likely to be a retrenchment of the "too big to fail" problem. Compliance with red tape is so burdensome that establishing a start-up, challenger brand is near-impossible.

When Metro Bank opened in 2010, it was the first new bank to do so on the high street since the 19th century. We would find this extraordinary and intolerable in any other sector. Imagine if there had been only one new entrant in the restaurant industry or the clothes store business since the 1800s. We surely would conclude there were some seriously restrictive practices at play.

Let's hope the recent downfalls of Credit Suisse, Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic amount to no more than an irritating and expensive sideshow. But if we want to head off the chances of a repeat of 2008 over the long term rather than merely this year, we need to rethink our approach to risk. Rather than continually falling for the Titanic fallacy, whereby banks will be constructed supposedly to be unsinkable, we'd be better advised to make sure the lifeboats work for whenever an emergency occurs. Similarly, we need to spread risk by giving ordinary depositors skin in the game. The state could provide a facility for those who wish their savings to be fully guaranteed, but this would come with a mix of fairly high banking fees and negative interest rates. If you want to chase higher rates of return by investing in equities, buying into cryptocurrency or analysing the form book in horse racing, you should not expect the taxpayer to cover any losses. Putting your money into a private bank would not be as risky as gambling your life savings in Las Vegas, but neither should it be risk-free.

Even if we avoid a repeat of the banking crisis in the coming months, the longer-term picture looks perilous as we appear unwilling to normalise either failure or risk. That means that when the next crash comes, it probably will be just as grisly as the last one.

Mark Littlewood is director-general of the Institute of Economic Affairs. Twitter: @MarkJLittlewood

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Jagjit Chadha

The Bank of England's job is difficult enough as it is, without government 'help'

The economy is suffering from a sequence of bleak shocks to its capacity to produce goods and services. These started with the financial crisis, which, although international, particularly affected an economy focused on financial services. It continued with the management of the exit from the European Union, which festered and ran like a sore through economic policy. The impact of the pandemic was amplified in an economy so heavily concentrated on the hospitality sector. And, as a trading nation reliant on energy and intermediate goods imports, supply chain disruptions and the Russian invasion of Ukraine further exposed the economy to a deterioration in its supply capacity.

This fall in productive capacity has left us, on average, poorer as a nation. But the "supply side" is not a direct responsibility of monetary policymakers, who must decide, after shocks that have provided such a considerable inflationary impulse, at what rate to "disinflate".

These shocks have meant that the terms of our overseas trade have turned against us and that we have to give up more of our production capacity to replace our falling imports. The sharp increase in traded goods prices has meant, as with most big central banks, that the Bank of England has raised its policy rate rapidly to ensure that the supply shocks do not lead to chronic inflationary pressure.

The Bank has twin objectives: first, ensuring that, once temporary inflation has abated, wage and price-setters condition their future rounds of decision-making on inflation expectations that are consistent with price stability; and second, to ensure that demand is brought down in line with the lower level of capacity in our economy.

Yet there is an aspect of the Bank's strategy that is often overlooked. While it probably is true — as many have loudly suggested — that an earlier response in 2021 might have shaped a percentage point or two off the peak in inflation, the pattern would have been much the same. A considerably stronger interest rate response in 2021 and 2022 might have stamped on inflation more forcefully, but at the cost of threatening a surge in unemployment and financial disruption in already delicate markets. The substantive risk of a subsequent deflation was very real. That would not have been the right response so soon after the damage inflicted by the pandemic.

The regime change from easy money to normalisation and a shrinkage in the central bank balance sheet, although long-heralded, represents a seismic shift that ought to be handled with great care. And that is where policy at the other side of town comes in. Double-digit inflation is not an outcome anyone wanted and it is imposing hardship on many families towards the bottom of the income distribution. But it is up to the Treasury, not the Bank of England, to offset the distributional consequences by offering more targeted relief. Inflation actually has helped to create some fiscal space by inflating government revenues relative to expenditure and accordingly debt levels seem to be lower than expected, with some room to support poorer families without generating excess demand.

Another point also has been overlooked. The government, by stating a target for halving inflation this year, inadvertently has provided a focal point for inflation at 5 per cent by the year's end. As a result, people are now planning for 5 per cent rather than 4 per cent or less and this is making inflation more persistent. The government, having set the Bank a target for inflation along with operational independence, should not involve itself in trying to take credit for an imminent fall in inflation. "Inflation control" was handed to the Bank in May 1997. This year the government has made the Bank's job harder by saying it will get inflation down.

To make a footballing analogy, the manager, having picked the striker, should not try to take any last-minute penalties himself. The question then is: if he does decide to take that penalty, is it a case of bad luck when he misses?

Jagjit Chadha is director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research and the author of The Money Minders: the Parables, Trade-offs and Lags of Central Banking

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Business

Chambers is ready to step into the breach for UK plc

Alex Ralph

Rarely, if ever, have the stakes been higher for the British Chambers of Commerce at its annual global conference. Speeches from Andrew Bailey, the governor of the Bank of England, a Treasury minister and Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, will command centre stage at the QEII centre in Westminster on Wednesday; the impact of rising inflation, costs and interest rates will be the focus for businesses across the spectrum; but it will also be a moment for the 160-year-old organisation to press its credentials as a successor to the CBI.

Baroness Lane-Fox of Soho, the entrepreneur and chambers president, made a pitch via The Sunday Times last month for the group to take over the lobbying and policy work of the CBI — one of Britain's five big business lobby groups but one that is facing an existential crisis over allegations of workplace misconduct.

Shevaun Haviland, the chambers' director-general of the past two years, similarly believes it is ideally placed. Speaking at the group's office in St James's, not far from the conference centre, Haviland, 51, noted its "really strong regional presence" in the UK, with a network of 53 chambers, and "huge presence" worldwide, with 79 British chambers overseas. Though it lacked "the depth, the bandwidth of policy development" of the CBI, "if you brought it all together, it would probably be the ideal situation", she said.

The timing of the BCC's pitch is understood to have raised eyebrows at other business lobby groups, given it comes in the midst of allegations of rape and sexual assault at the CBI. However, Haviland is careful not to be seen to exploit the scandal at the rival body, which is fighting for its survival after an exodus of big corporate members, including the John Lewis Partnership, NatWest and BMW, and after the government paused engagement in response to widening allegations of misconduct.

"It made us all feel horrible," she said. "The personal human tragedy of those women and all the people in that organisation who are now worried about their jobs, that was everyone's first concern. And it makes you look at your own organisation."

The CBI was among the "B5" elite of business lobby organisations, along with the BCC, the Federation of Small Businesses, Make UK and the Institute of Directors, who regularly held meetings with secretaries of state. Haviland attended with Tony Danker, who was dismissed as director-general of the CBI last month after an investigation over separate complaints of misconduct. Danker, 51, has claimed he has been made the "fall guy" for the scandal.

"I was in meetings with Tony and the rest of the team weekly for a lot of the period. But we had working relationships. We didn't have personal relationships," she said.

Although Rain Newton-Smith, the CBI's new director-general, vowed last week to rebuild a better, "new-look" organisation, the CBI's implosion has raised questions over what or who could fill the void if it doesn't survive. Its crisis also has prompted concerns that businesses will go unheard just as the government and opposition parties are drafting manifestos ahead of next year's general election.

Writing in The Times last month, Simon Walker, the City grandee and a former director-general of the Institute of Directors, said it "should be unthinkable for the business community to go unrepresented because politicians and government departments refuse to deal with the principal organisation representing employer interests". He has called for the creation of a "single, overarching body" to plead the case for UK plc.

Nick Faith, co-founder of WPI Strategy, a public relations firm, and a former communications director of the



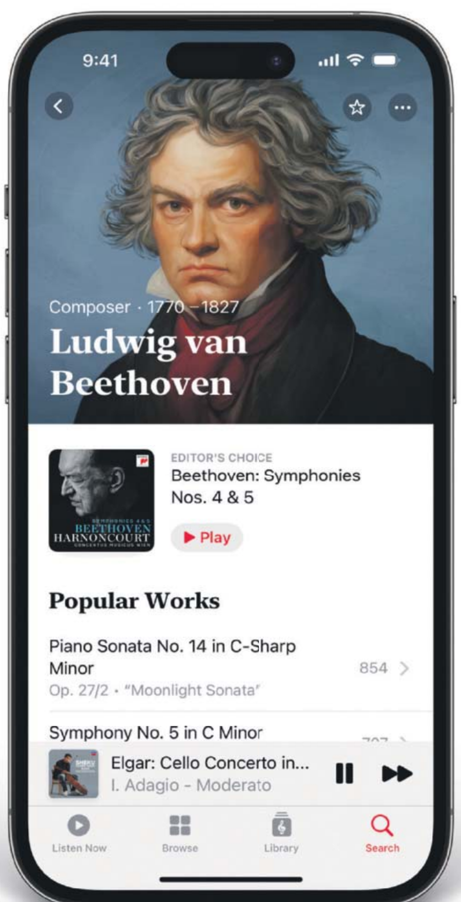
Shevaun Haviland is cautious of being

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St James's in awkward place over pay to its top directors

Ben Martin

A shareholder revolt over executive pay is looming over St James's Place after an investor adviser claimed the wealth manager's bosses were enjoying a "windfall gain" from share awards granted in the depths of the pandemic.

Institutional Shareholder Services has told clients that, at the group's annual general meeting on Thursday, they should vote against pay packages that the FTSE 100 company has handed to its top executives for last year. Andrew Croft, 58, the chief executive, has taken home £3.1 million for 2022, while Craig Gentle, the finance chief, received £2.3 million.

At issue is the vesting of share awards under St James's Place's long-term incentive plan that formed part of the executives' packages: Croft received awards valued at £1.7 million and Gentle £1.2 million. The awards were granted three years ago, when the wealth manager's shares had fallen sharply during Covid. Its share price has bounced back since then, resulting in a payout that ISS said "is not an accurate reflection of executive performance".

A spokesman for the company said "executive directors experienced a substantial discount to their remuneration in 2020, as no annual bonuses or salary increases were awarded in light of the pandemic. This was in contrast to many other companies at the time."

Vistry, the owner of Bovis Homes, and Aston Martin Lagonda are also likely to face scrutiny over executive pay this week.

VICKI COUCHMAN FOR THE TIMES



seen to take advantage of the CBI scandal, which she said felt "horrible", as she positions the BCC as a key business voice

Policy Exchange think tank, has established a group called BizUK as a "temporary, time-limited initiative" in the run-up to the election.

However, Haviland is dismissive of the idea of creating "another something else" and opposes combining the B5. "You will find a huge number of big corporates are members of their chambers all over the country," she said. "They were also members of the CBI, often, and there will probably be a gap in their needs." She acknowledged that the CBI operated a much larger team than the chambers in the City of London and its policy unit, but said her organisation would be "focusing on our chamber network to help us fill any gaps that businesses feel that they have". Although the BCC "represents businesses of all sizes and sectors" and the CBI "was more known for FTSE 100", the two had "very similar remits", she said.

She added that "we're thinking about five big challenges: the future of work, decarbonisation, green innovation, Britain in the world and our digital economy … If you think about 2016 [the EU referendum], those Brexit years, straight into Covid, terrible inflation, war in Ukraine, businesses have been facing issue after issue."

These turbulent events have made for an intense two years for Haviland since she was appointed director-general. With a CV spanning multinationals and start-ups, she was made deputy director of business partnerships at the Cabinet Office in 2016, joining two months before the Brexit referendum.

"I was there for almost exactly five years: two general elections, three prime ministers, an EU referendum and the actual leaving of the EU and a year of the global pandemic — which used to be quite a funny story, until we had three prime ministers last year."

Relations with business during her time at No 10 were strained. "It was tough because businesses were either cross or just didn't know what to do [about Brexit]." When she left to lead the chambers, she faced criticism that she had "gone to the other side". "I was like, 'Sorry, we are all in this for the same thing, right? Government and business want a strong economy, don't we?'"

The pandemic, though, had shown government and business "at its best", she said, creating the furlough scheme, for example. Rishi Sunak and Jeremy Hunt now "definitely get it and they're open and they're on for listening. They've got a lot of challenges to deal with, but they've definitely brought stability that businesses appreciate."

With Starmer's Labour Party also courting business, Wednesday's conference provides a platform to help to build the economic recovery.

Business as a force for good

Shevaun Haviland, who read philosophy, politics and economics at the University of Oxford, was the first in her family to go to university (Alex Ralph writes).

Her parents were "Geordies who didn't really have much", she says. Her father was a sales manager at Lever Brothers, now Unilever, and part of her childhood was spent living near Port Sunlight, the village built by William Hesketh Lever to house workers at his soap factory. "[Lever] was one of those early Victorian philanthropists who believed that treating people well was the right thing to do. That really ignited my thoughts around business as a force for good."

After working in consultancy in London and New York, Haviland joined the Walt Disney Company, where she oversaw the opening of the Walt Disney Studios in Paris in 2002. After time at WPP, the marketing group, and having a second child, she started a digital agency for businesses in 2007. "Running your own business and worrying about making payroll, it really gives you an understanding of how small business owners juggle one thousand things in one go." She also built the Inclusive Economy Partnership, in which business helps social enterprises to grow.



Haviland oversaw the opening of the Walt Disney Studios in Paris

Hostile bids likely after discounts on listed funds

Helen Cahill

Private equity investors are set to face a wave of takeover bids after listed funds with assets worth £17.3 billion were valued by public markets at only £10.9 billion.

Funds listed on the stock exchange are trading at a discount of up to 50 per cent and could be targeted by hostile bidders, according to analysts.

Research by Investec has found that the average discount of a group of 14 London-listed funds widened from 13 per cent to 37 per cent last year amid concerns about the underlying values of their investments. Markets are betting that the wider decline in public company shares could affect the value of unlisted companies.

Investec's analysts said these funds could be subject to takeover approaches as private equity investors look for companies trading at attractive valuations on public markets.

Blackstone made the first approach in the funds sector this year when it agreed a £700 million deal, including debt, for Industrials Reit. CK Asset Holdings then made a £485 million bid for Civitas Social Housing; Civitas, an investment trust focused on social homes, has been approached by Wellness United Limited, a subsidiary of CK Asset Holdings.

Investec said listed private equity was approaching "a seminal moment". Its analysts said: "We see the potential for a bright future. The quality of the underlying portfolios that underpin these superior growth characteristics and distressed discounts could attract more hostile investors."

The report found that Chrysalis Investments, HarbourVest Global PE, Schroders Capital Global Innovation were trading at discounts of 50.3 per cent, 47 per cent and 44.8 per cent, respectively. Ken Wotton, a portfolio manager at Gresham House, said: "Wider public market valuations have fallen and so that will flow through to the valuation processes for some of these trusts and their underlying assets.

"But it's unlikely that the net assets will always fall by as much as the discount on some of these funds, so I can see there will be some attractive opportunities in that space because of the size of some of the discounts."

Lending to increase as confidence grows

Arthi Nachiappan
Economics Correspondent

Lending is expected to rise this year after the economy proved more robust than forecasters previously expected, new projections show.

Total bank loans are expected to rise by 1.2 per cent in 2023, reflecting an extra £29 billion in lending, upgraded from a 0.1 per cent fall that was forecast in February, amid growing confidence that Britain will avoid a recession.

The EY Item Club, the forecasting group, said bank lending was set to rise by a further 2.1 per cent in 2024 as confidence among businesses and consumers continued to improve.

The combination of stronger economic growth, falling inflation and the sharp drop in wholesale gas prices has boosted optimism among businesses that conditions will continue to improve this year. Last autumn, the Office for Budget Responsibility, the government's tax and spending watchdog, warned of the biggest fall in living standards since the Second World War. The UK narrowly avoided a recession last year and consumer spending has held up better than expected, partly because of government energy bill subsidies that capped the average household energy bill at £2,500 a year.

52,011
Mortgage approvals granted during March
Source: The Bank of England

Anna Anthony, UK financial services managing partner at EY, said enthusiasm about the economic outlook "should be measured, in the short term at least. UK banks continue to face a tough environment, with historically low lending growth rates. However, the sector is in a strong capital position and continues to provide support to customers, businesses and the wider economy."

The Item Club also expects mortgage lending to rise by 1.2 per cent this year, climbing to 1.8 per cent in 2024 and to 2.7 per cent in 2025. Its previous quarterly forecasts, published in February, projected a marginal rise of 0.4 per cent.

The number of mortgages approved dropped sharply at the turn of the year, falling to the lowest level in 14 years — excluding the pandemic — at 39,886 in January.

However, a rise in consumer confidence and a lack of a significant tightening in lending criteria have boosted activity in recent months. Mortgage approvals rose to 52,011 in March, according to the Bank of England.

Chinese 'revenge' spending set to benefit UK economy

Isabella Fish

"Revenge spending" by Chinese shoppers is set to significantly boost the British economy this year, according to HSBC.

China has been emerging from nearly three years of strict pandemic lockdown restrictions that have been a drag on the global economy. As a result, HSBC Global Research thinks the Chinese population has accrued 6.6 trillion yuan (about £760 billion) in excess savings over the past three years, equivalent to 5.4 per cent of GDP in 2021.

David Maddison, director of UK retail and leisure at HSBC, said the "potential impact of this 'revenge spending' is therefore huge".

He added: "Already we have seen the drastic impact of domestic revenge spending on luxury brands LVMH, Hermès, Ferragamo and Mulberry. This is only predicted to rise, given the higher than average demand for luxury goods from Chinese consumers. There is a significant opportunity for British businesses to capitalise on this Chinese demand."

Mulberry, the British handbag and accessories brand, said there had been an "improving environment in China over recent months", helping it to boost annual profits.

American tourists fuelled a European luxury spending boom in 2022, prompted by a strong dollar and unrestricted travelling post-lockdowns. "There is a hope and expectation that China will do as the Americans did, albeit to a greater degree, given the significant demand," Maddison said.

If your children say try TikTok, it pays to listen

THE TIMES
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Businesses that could never afford television advertising are finding a new outlet, writes **Hannah Prevett**

When Paul Sherratt's 15-year-old son suggested that he try TikTok as a way of driving sales for gloveglu, a spray he invented to make goalkeeper gloves more grippy, Sherratt didn't take him too seriously. "TikTok?" he responded. "I'm too old to understand it and I'm not sure that's our market."

Two years on, the 53-year-old says the social media platform has been "instrumental" in his company's international expansion. He expects sales of gloveglu, which is made in Bampton, Oxfordshire, to reach £2.5 million this year, three quarters of which will come from exports to 44 markets.

"When you've got viral videos which are hitting 70 million views, it's a lot of eyeballs. We had the biggest soccer retailer in Chile say 'I've seen your product' and ask to stock it. Then very quickly the No 2, No 3 and No 4 in Chile all wanted to stock it, too."

Lizzie Carter, 36, founder of Only Curls, a haircare range, was similarly sceptical about TikTok, the short-form video platform owned by ByteDance, of China. She started her company in 2016 with only £500 — initially selling one product, a towel for curly hair — and quickly built a following on Instagram, where the brand now has 160,000 followers.

She tried TikTok during the pandemic as ecommerce boomed thanks to captive audiences on social media. "I really didn't want to do TikTok, I felt like it was just teenagers on there and people doing silly dances. I'm not great on camera, although I am getting better because anything we do on social media that talks about our story and how we started always does really well." About a quarter of Only Curls' new customers now come from TikTok.

She was surprised by the platform's reach among her target demographic of consumers aged 35 to 55. "There's a lot of women on there who are checking in on their teenagers, as well as a lot of people who don't post but do watch content."

Of gloveglu's 817,000 followers, 16 per cent are over 35. "The so-called 'older people' are definitely starting to embrace the platform," according to Sherratt. Though they may not be doing silly dances, gloveglu's TikTok content is intentionally light-hearted. Sherratt said he and his son, now 16, will spend Saturday mornings filming eight or nine pieces of content to post over the course of the following week.

One of their most successful TikTok playlists is called *Will it stick* and features a video of Sherratt trying to stick a number of items to his gloved hands — gloveglu applied — including a spring onion, a banana and a can of Diet Coke.

Sherratt believes it is almost impossible to predict what content will perform well. "Our highest-trending post is 70 million views, but then you might post for two weeks and you hit only 5,000 or 20,000. My advice is, if you think it's going to be a really integral part of your marketing strategy and really important to you as a business, keep going, keep tweaking, keep fun and you will ultimately find a formula that works."

While gloveglu has been able to rely on organic traffic, Carter has used advertising to help Only Curls' posts to reach audiences. The company spends about £1,000 a day on TikTok ads and the less-polished, user-generated style of videos perform best. "Historically, a brand like mine may have advertised in magazines, but TV ads wouldn't have been affordable for us. Even now, we couldn't come up with an ad that was polished enough and produced enough for a TV ad, but you can create a video ad for TikTok in your bathroom at home so it's really good for a business my size." Only Curls is set to reach sales of £12 million this year.

Ed East, founder of Billion Dollar



Paul Sherratt and his son Oliver spend



Lizzie Carter uses TikTok not just for marketing but feedback and live sales



ANDRE CAMARA FOR THE TIMES



Saturday mornings making new TikTok content for gloveglu and found that it reaches people over 35 as well as teenagers

Boy, the influencer agency, argues that TikTok is suited to small and medium-sized businesses exploring the potential of social media because the aesthetic "lends itself to content which is more raw and accessible. You don't need high production values or great video editing skills to cut through, provided the content resonates with your audience."

Carter is also using TikTok as a way to engage with Only Curls' customers. "It's another way that you can directly speak to them, so we see it as a customer service platform. We consider every comment as equal to an email."

A newer addition to the TikTok stable has been the TikTok Shop, launched in 2021, which is like a modern version of live shopping television channels such as QVC for the smartphone generation. Only Curls is starting to "dip a toe" into the live shopping events. "You can do a two-hour 'live' and you take £500 of orders."

TikTok is not without controversy. It was revealed recently that ByteDance employees had spied on a British journalist through an account in her cat's name, adding fuel to a campaign in America to have TikTok banned. Governments, including in Britain, Australia and New Zealand, have stopped staff from using TikTok on official devices.

Lisa Friedrich, the head of small business at TikTok, said that there were a lot of "misconceptions" about the platform. "We're very disappointed that this is the narrative and the conversation that's happening," she said.

"We continue to demonstrate how important … our platform is to the people who are engaged in using it: 150 million people in the United States, 150 million in Europe."

Do the controversies put off small businesses? Friedrich insists not. "We haven't seen that yet. I don't think they live and die in the media narrative in the same way. They are just trying to keep their business going."

Asked the same question, Carter is more nuanced. "It is something I think about. It's amazing that there are all these small businesses that have popped up from nowhere and [the owners are] making a living from TikTok. But if you have all your eggs in that one basket, that's risky."

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Regrets, I've had a few. Now it's time to embrace them

Kim Morrish



In his book *The Power of Regret*, Daniel Pink argues that we can enlist our regrets to make smarter decisions, perform better at work and in life and deepen our sense of purpose.

While there is virtue in positive thinking and a focus on what the future can offer, top organisations and individuals consistently analyse past performance. After sporting matches the coaching staff provide players with detailed performance analysis, including individual and team statistics. Video analysis provides more in-depth insights, reviewing mistakes to highlight areas for improvement.

For the past year my personal daily routine has started with expressing gratitude and setting intent. Each evening ends with reflections on the day's highlights and, finally, writing what I have learnt. The first three have been easy and natural but chronicling what I have learnt each day has not.

It is a lot like business. We are always setting our intentions and celebrating success but pay much less attention to what, if anything, we have learnt from our mistakes, poor decisions and failures. When the University of Virginia's Darden Business School introduced an executive MBA course two years ago entitled What I Might Have Done Differently, its lead professor, Greg Fairchild, said that this new class on failure analysis was immediately oversubscribed, suggesting that the demand is there.

> After sports matches, the players get detailed video analysis that reviews their mistakes

Several years earlier I had worked with Darden on a teaching case study about our 2004 acquisition of Ground Control. Pivoting to teach MBA students about our failures was not nearly as fun, or ego boosting. I surveyed former and present colleagues for their thoughts and noticed a general discomfort with the exercise. Several shared regret over bad hiring decisions and the retention for too long of poor performers. One particular acquisition gained consensus, however, as something we might have done differently.

In gathering information for the case I was reminded of how great the deal had originally looked on paper. Taking over a profitable commercial roofing business in 2014 was an opportunity to expand our service offering, gain market share and grow top and bottom lines. We hoped to professionalise that service as we had landscape and winter maintenance, construction and tree work. We already served several of the same customers. More importantly, the roofing business had contracts and relationships with several of our large target customers.

What the investment memorandum did not show on paper we started to glean in due diligence. We chose, however, to ignore the incompatibility of their values and culture with our own and we broke our own rules because of the promise of the opportunity at a "bargain" price.

Acquisitions can be distracting but this one proved cataclysmically so because of internal fraud, poor behaviours and an inability to wrestle the business into professional ways of working. After five years of struggle, losses and profound unhappiness, we sold to new management. After three more years the business failed.

We learnt the hard way that you can change and improve almost everything in a business but it is really tough to change an embedded culture. This lesson has become a golden rule for future acquisitions.

As we were wrestling with the distraction and losses caused by that acquisition I organised a board retreat with an external facilitator. One of the exercises was about "prouds" and "sorrys". Each of us wrote down and presented the top things we felt personal pride in, along with regrets that we had. It was an emotional session but proved to be a great experience.

On another occasion we had a worrying increase in staff turnover and a poor employee engagement survey. We held a joint board-executive retreat to explore and understand areas of failure. That highlighted the need for a change in senior leadership, investment in company-wide management training and creating visible pathways for career progression.

Because of this post-mortem, we have been recognised by Great Companies to Work For on two occasions, the most recent giving a "world class" rating.

The Power of Regret encourages these reviews after negative events, embedding the practice of constructively discussing failures along with diarising individual time for daily reflection. It also suggests making a failure resumé, where you list your setbacks and screw-ups in one column and what you learnt from them in the second column.

Looking backward has moved us forward. I also believe that reflecting on my own personal and professional failures has made me a more humble and compassionate leader.

Regret can be a powerful tool for business leadership when used in the right way. By embracing regret we can confront our mistakes and failures, make more thoughtful and deliberate decisions and create a culture of continuous learning.

Kim Morrish is an owner and director of Ground Control, based in Billericay, Essex, which made £22.5 million of profit on sales of £150 million in 2022.

Business Equity prices

Automobiles & parts

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
1,428.26	Aston Martin Lag	204⅜	-14¾	...	-1.2

Banking & finance

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
4,149.92	**Abrdn**‡	207¼	...	...	4.5
6,834.94	**Admiral**‡	2254	+18	...	11.4
11.27	ADVFN♦	24½	...	...	4.2
1,309.62	AJ Bell	317¾	-4	...	29.7
55,080.03	Aon Corpn	26967½	+633⅜	...	65.8
79.19	Appreciate Group♦	42⅛	+⅛	...	18.3
143.09	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	952½	-15	...	21.0
3.51	Argo Group♦	9	...	...	4.1
1,687.77	Ashmore	236¾	-7	...	8.0
39,253.22	Aus New Z	1306⅞	+55⅜	...	10.2
11,422.74	**Aviva**‡	412⅝	-1⅞	...	54.3
44,995.25	Banco Santander	276½	+½	...	6.6
1,547.14	Bank of Georgia	3325	+290	...	10.3
23,930.97	**Barclays**	153⅞	+⅝	...	3.7
8.64	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	3.4
116.72	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	312	+8	...	8.6
8.44	Braveheart Inv♦	13¼	-¾	...	0.3
1,564.20	Brewin Dolphin	515	+1	...	28.1
1,831.28	Bridgepoint‡	224¾	-21¾	...	14.0
21.54	Cenkos Secs♦	38	...	...	7.7
414.33	Chesnara‡	275½	-5	...	15.3
11.94	City of Lon Gp♦	10	-14	...	-0.6
224.00	City Lon Inv Gp	442	-2½	...	10.3
1,355.60	Close Bros	901½	-22	...	6.7
504.23	CMC Markets	180⅛	-3	...	5.5
10,930.50	Commerzbk	872¾	+22⅜	...	44.7
17,089.14	Deutsche Bk	837½	-4¼	...	9.8
2,105.45	Direct Line Ins	160½	-3¾	...	6.6
102.54	Downing ONE VCT	57	...	...	7.7
6.17	Drumz♦	5	...	...	...
421.36	EFG-Hermes Hldg	72⅛	...	...	4.6
47.35	EPE Special Opps♦	158½	-1½	...	8.8
401.43	FBD‡	1128	...	...	5.0
7.98	Fiske♦	67½	...	...	12.0
87.30	Frenkel Topping♦	68½	+4	...	39.8
366.99	Georgia Capital	831	+35	...	2.2
304.28	Gresham House♦‡	795	...	...	31.9
192.07	H&T Group♦	438	-14	...	14.0
65.89	Hansard Global	47⅞	-1	...	16.5
3,813.52	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	804	+11½	...	14.3
123.33	Helios Under♦	160	+1½	...	...
119,812.65	**HSBC**‡	599⅝	...	...	13.1
2,900.92	IG Group	706½	-21½	...	7.2
1,107.18	Impax♦	835	+36	...	27.5
3,741.47	Intermed Capital	1287½	+10	...	7.3
236.36	IPF	105½	+7½	...	5.9
2,752.19	International Public P'ship‡	144	-1⅜	...	18.5
2,854.26	Investec	436⅝	-11	...	10.9
15.75	Investment Co	330	+5	...	11.8
552.60	IP Group	53¼	-1⅝	...	2.0
71.57	Jarvis Securities♦	160	+15	...	11.5
670.32	Jupiter Fund Mgmt‡	123	-5	...	4.5
932.76	Just Group‡	89¾	+5	...	...
1,504.32	Lancashire Holdings‡	616½	+20	...	...
13,786.48	**Legal & Gen**‡	230¾	+2½	...	7.0
1,438.66	Liberty Group	502⅝	-50034⅜	...	...
503.57	Liontrust	775½	-32½	...	9.7
67.80	Livermore Invs♦	41	...	...	2.6
29,971.85	**Lloyds Banking Gp**‡	45½	-¼	...	6.3
18.16	LMS Capital	22½	...	...	9.7
47,263.69	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**‡	8554	+196	...	87.4
4,700.92	**M&G**	199⅛	-3¾	...	62.2
2,555.09	Man‡	211¾	-3	...	8.4
28.77	Manx Fin♦	25	...	...	12.6
1.45	Marechale Cap♦	1½	+⅜	...	0.7
71,765.22	Marsh McLn	14506⅛	+123⅜	...	30.2
327.87	Mattioli Woods♦	635	+4	...	...
15.35	Metal Tiger♦	9	+1	...	3.5
163.81	Metro Bank	94⅞	-4⅛	...	-0.6
44,219.81	Nat Aust Bk	1408¾	-16½	...	13.9
24,800.19	**NatWest**	261¼	+2	...	10.2
373.46	Numis♦	339½	-1	...	6.9
2,114.67	Onesavings Bank‡	496⅜	+9⅜	...	6.6
310.22	PayPoint	427½	-12	...	13.4
3.17	PCF Group♦	⅞	+¼	...	-0.4
5,756.91	**Phoenix**	575⅜	-2⅛	...	-6.6
571.19	Provident	225	+10	...	4.2
31,827.08	**Prudential**‡	1156	-32½	...	18.7
15.71	Quantum Blockchain♦	1½	...	...	-8.6
1,192.79	Quilter‡	84⅞	-2¼	...	60.6
226.62	Randall & Quilter♦	60½	-½	...	90.1
1,214.11	Rathbone Grp	1914	-6	...	14.8
5.43	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	2.0
51.33	Rockwood Strategic	2020	+30	...	2.9
296.48	S & U	2440	+20	...	11.5
4.67	Sancus Lending Grp♦	¾	...	...	-0.3
214.72	Schroder REIT	43⅞	-2	...	4.6
7,557.52	**Schroders**	468¾	-1	...	2.1
6,238.34	**St James Place**‡	1138	+11½	...	21.6
17,399.87	**Stand Chart**	616⅛	+11	...	13.8
4.37	Starvest♦	7½	...	...	-1.2
14.55	STM Group♦	24½	...	...	9.4
22,487.48	Sun Life Can	3832½	-27¼	...	9.8
43.43	Tavistock Inv♦	7¾	-½	...	1.2
1,284.05	TBC Bank Group‡	2335	-90	...	6.8
16.51	Tern♦	4¼	...	...	3.2
26.55	Time Finance♦	28⅝	+2½	...	17.5
28.24	Volvere♦	1200	...	...	...
13.36	WH Ireland♦	20½	+2	...	11.5
11.07	Walker Crips Grp	26	...	...	74.2
113,223.79	Wells Fargo	3017½	-24¾	...	8.2
39,479.40	Westpac	1125	-8½	...	15.2
9.95	Worsley Investors Ltd	29½	...	...	92.1
57,464.46	Zurich Fincl	38192⅜	-196⅝	...	14.9

Investment companies

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Forecast Yld%	P/E
17,797.03	**3i Group**	1828½	+55½	...	9.5
3,011.47	3i Infrastructure	326½	-½	...	-2.4
265.07	Abrdn Div I&G	87¾	+1½	...	-26.8
1,072.18	Aberforth Smlr	1264	-8	...	-13.4
2,860.95	Alliance	988	+7	...	-5.9
435.76	Asia Dragon Tr	376	-2	...	-14.2
4.21	Athelney Trust	195	...	...	-12.1
904.33	AVI Global Trust	189½	...	...	-10.3
140.77	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	227	-5	...	-12.9
337.04	Baillie Gifford Eu Gr	94	+¼	...	-15.2
706.15	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	757	+7	...	-9.9
464.50	Baillie Gifford SN	148	+2½	...	-11.1
249.86	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	166	-1	...	-14.4
1,266.96	Bankers	99⅝	-⅝	...	-9.9
1,553.26	BH Macro	415	-1	...	3.7
321.41	Biotech Growth	840	+13	...	-8.9
158.64	BlckRck Com Inc	117	-1½	...	-8.2
259.38	BlckRck Fro Inv	137	+1¼	...	-9.5
549.44	BlckRck Grt Euro	544	+5	...	-3.7
39.80	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	190	+1	...	-10.4
109.55	BlckRck Latin Am	372	+26	...	-14.4
149.23	BlckRck SustAm	186	-2	...	-5.1
645.54	BlckRck Smlr	1328	-12	...	-13.0
598.62	BlckRck Throgmorton	594	-3	...	-5.8
1,189.16	BlckRck Wld Min	622	-15	...	1.3
327.50	CT Cap&Inc	309	+5½	...	-3.7
557.03	Balanced Comm Prop	79⅜	-2½	...	-31.5
746.65	The Glbl Smaller	142⅜	-1½	...	-12.6
377.34	CT Priv Eq Ord	518	+26	...	-26.7
146.24	CT Real Estate	63	-1	...	-34.9
71.04	CT UK HIT	83½	-½	...	-7.8
27.79	CT UK HIT B	90½	+2	...	...
107.05	CT UK HIT UNIT	334	+2	...	-7.8
142.23	Brown Advsr US Sm	1190	+2½	...	-14.2
454.68	Brunner	1065	+12½	...	-11.8
1,924.16	Caledonia Inv	3520	-110	...	-28.7
286.99	Invesco BondInc	162	+¾	...	...
2,051.49	City of Lon IT	414	-3	...	2.0
65.75	Crystal Amber Fd	79	+½	...	-33.8
30.82	Dunedin Entp	560	+2½	...	-9.1
1,098.41	Edinburgh IT	666	-6	...	-7.2
580.24	Edin Wwide	149	-¾	...	-17.5
96.43	EP Global Opp	330	+5	...	-10.4
337.02	European Assets	93½	+⅛	...	-7.0
775.96	European Opp Tr	778	-5	...	-11.1
4,649.17	**F&C Invest Tr**	897	+2	...	-4.0
373.51	Fidlty Asian Val	520	+6	...	-2.5
1,090.19	Fidelity China Sp	224½	-8½	...	-10.4
1,455.08	Fidlty Euro Val	356	+½	...	-4.7
227.99	Fidlty Jap Tru	176½	+5	...	-10.8
915.58	Fidlty Spec Val	282½	-6	...	-4.6
1,871.37	Fins Gwth & Inc	901	-7	...	-4.0
797.12	GCP Infrastructure	90¼	-2	...	-17.6
521.09	Gen Emer Mkts	572	-11½	...	-13.4
29.50	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	34½	-½	...	-12.3
3,678.42	Greencoat UK Wind	158⅝	-1⅛	...	-4.6
67.20	Hansa Investment	168	-6	...	-41.9
135.60	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	169½	+2½	...	-43.4
1,684.93	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2130	+15	...	-45.9
337.24	Hend Euro Foc	158½	+2¼	...	-12.6
227.14	Hend High Inc	175	+3½	...	0.2
602.84	Hend Smlr	807	-10	...	-13.3
1,039.33	Herald	1720	-2	...	-15.0
1,663.84	HgCapital Trust	363½	+4½	...	-21.0
3,120.37	HICL Infra	153½	-2⅜	...	-7.3
4.22	Highbridge Tactical	389	...	...	47.5
744.41	ICG Ent Tr	1094	+12	...	-42.2
1,245.19	Impax Env Mkts	411	+3½	...	-4.0
214.60	Invesco Asia Tr	321	-4	...	-11.5
286.99	Invesco BondInc	162	+¾	...	...
5.46	IPST Bal	132	-1½	...	-12.9
57.50	IPST Gbl Eq	231	...	...	-12.4
1.11	IPST Managed	91	...	...	-16.7
111.48	IPST UK Eq	161	-8¾	...	-11.7
144.44	IP UKSmallerCos	427	-2	...	-14.1
1,304.92	JPM American	711	+5	...	-3.0
325.19	JPM Asia	347	-2	...	-9.0
226.73	JPM Chinese	272½	-10½	...	-9.8
405.83	JPM Claverhs	680	...	...	-4.0
1,171.43	JPM Em Mkts	101⅜	-2⅛	...	-10.6
655.10	JPM Euro disc	416	-5	...	-13.4
379.72	JPM GEMI	128	+1	...	-9.5
1,779.68	JPM GG&I	455½	+2½	...	1.2
589.66	JPM Indian	794	+4	...	-18.7
173.34	JPM Jap Sml Co	318	+9	...	-12.4
721.89	JPM Japan#	472	+8	...	-8.9
195.75	JPM Mid Cap	904	...	...	-14.6
71.51	JPM Multi-Ass G&I	94½	...	...	-2.9
...	"JPM Em E	GBX	+½	...	...
215.42	JPM Smllr Co	276	+3	...	-12.1
127.03	Keystone IT	205½	+2½	...	-16.7
1,061.16	Law Debenture	815	-6	...	2.2
333.68	Lowland	123½	+¼	...	-7.9
112.36	Majedie	212	-3	...	-13.0
261.90	M Currie Port	349	+8	...	0.7
51.33	Marwyn Val In	92½	...	...	-44.3
1,599.91	Mercantile IT	202½	-1½	...	-14.1
823.48	Merchants	567	-6	...	0.9
437.47	Mid Wynd	687	-3	...	-2.3
2,249.40	Monks Inv Tst	976	-1	...	-10.3
268.99	Montanaro Eur Sml	142	+1⅛	...	-13.9
986.36	Murray Income Trust	871	-4	...	-7.4
1,660.25	Murray Int	265⅜	-⅜	...	2.5
130.65	Nb Global Floating	73⅛	+¾	...	-6.7
430.61	Pacific Assets	356	+4	...	-6.1
1,388.32	Pantheon Int	262	+1	...	-42.4
5,177.97	**Pershing Sq**	2728	+18	...	-36.2
1,871.71	Personal Assets	478	-6½	...	-0.1
2,528.20	Polar Cap Tech	2005	+25	...	-12.5
26.54	Prem Glb & Inf	145½	+1	...	-15.2
3,074.68	Renewables Inf	123¾	-4	...	-5.9
2,996.71	RIT Cap Ptnr	1966	-59	...	-16.6
268.38	Riverstone	550	-19	...	-53.4
427.71	Schroder TotRt	413	+3	...	-4.3
761.83	Schrd Asia Pac	486	-7	...	-11.4
213.95	Schrod Inc Gwth	308	+5	...	-1.4
259.47	Schrod Jap Gwth	216	+8	...	-12.7
193.65	Schrod UKMid	560	-8	...	-13.0
131.09	Schroder UK PP Tr	14½	+⅜	...	-48.2
947.05	Scot American	534	+3	...	0.7
8,741.31	**Scot Mtge**	621	-7⅜	...	-21.5
219.00	Secs Tst Scot	221	...	...	-1.2
1,408.25	Sequoia Eco	81¾	-¼	...	-10.5
697.52	Temple Bar	228	-2	...	-5.8
1,662.79	Tplton Emg Mkt	144	-1	...	-14.4
0.88	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	45.8
901.28	TR Property	284	-13	...	-7.5
185.15	Troy Inc&Gth	72⅜	+1⅜	...	-2.2
121.99	Utilico Ord	145½	+4½	...	-30.7
452.71	Utilico Emerging Mkt	224	+8	...	-13.2
1,115.87	Vietnam Ent Inv	543	+4	...	-17.1
1,503.61	Witan	228	-2½	...	-8.2
2,030.60	Ww Health	3290	+15	...	-10.0

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Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
58.36	Alumasc♦	161½	-6	...	8.2
18.32	Aseana Props	9⅛	...	...	-4.6
1,501.09	Assura	50⅝	...	...	10.1
6.06	Aukett Swanke♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.1
2,220.41	Balfour Beatty	391⅛	+1⅜	...	18.5
4,918.88	**Barratt Devs**‡	500⅜	-3	...	7.8
2,994.39	Bellway	2444	+2	...	7.3
4,682.87	**Berkeley**	4353	-113	...	11.3
2,136.01	Big Yellow Group	1159	-59	...	7.6
56.91	Billington Hldgs♦	440	...	...	35.7
318.39	Boot (Henry)‡	238	-3	...	12.7
3,440.40	**Br Land**	371	-27⅛	...	50.8
17.68	Caledonian Tst♦	150	...	...	29.9
96.44	Cap & Regnl‡	57	+2	...	-0.5
25.10	Cardiff Prop	2370	...	...	25.7
34.94	Carecapital♦	6½	+¼	...	-0.7
66.26	Clarke T‡	150¼	+19½	...	10.8
1,148.53	Countryside Partner	229¾	+11	...	16.7
0.53	Craven House♦	13⅝	...	...	-0.2
29,003.65	**CRH**	3937	+25	...	16.3
2,436.71	Derwent London‡	2170	-192	...	9.6
34.38	Dolphin Capital♦	3¾	...	...	-2.6
31.05	First Prop♦	28	+3	...	...
3.84	Fletcher King♦	37½	...	...	...
119.39	Foxtons Group‡	39½	...	...	...
191.77	Galliford Try	179⅜	+2	...	39.8
737.54	Genuit Group‡	296	-15	...	17.9
259.04	Gleeson (MJ)	444	...	...	6.9
2,026.92	Grafton	847½	-16¼	...	9.8
1,836.03	Grainger	247½	-13	...	15.3
1,239.89	Great Portland	488⅜	-46	...	-6.1
1,266.62	Hammerson	25¼	-1⅜	...	-2.7
387.70	Harworth Gp‡	120	...	...	4.1
10.77	Heath (Samuel)♦	425	...	...	8.8
339.84	Helical PLC	275½	-24½	...	6.6
45.04	Highcroft Invs‡	865	-10	...	3.7
648.58	Ibstock‡	165	-9½	...	21.4
930.49	James Halstead♦‡	215	+1	...	22.9
462.13	Keller	635	-26	...	7.3
10,084.87	Kingspan Group	5544⅛	+165½	...	21.7
4,556.01	**Land Sec**	614⅜	-51⅜	...	...
248.50	Life Science Reit‡	71	-1⅛	...	...
11.95	Lon & Assoc	14	...	...	-1.9
1,834.22	Londonmetric Property	186½	-5⅜	...	3.9
36.95	Macau Prop Op	59¾	-¾	...	-7.7
733.10	Marshalls	289¾	-8⅛	...	10.5
88.11	Michelmersh♦	92½	...	...	14.7
859.92	Morgan Sindall‡	1816	+16	...	8.8
436.69	Mountview	11200	...	...	13.9
257.05	NewRiver REIT	82¾	...	...	-2.9
102.83	Palace Capital	236	+18½	...	11.2
52.42	Panther Securities♦	300	...	...	2.7
4,272.19	**Persimmon**	1337½	-30	...	5.4
4.30	Pires Investments♦	2⅛	...	...	-4.7
2.06	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
1,392.63	Primary Health Properties‡	104⅛	-2¼	...	10.6
52.66	Real Estate Invs♦	30½	+1	...	3.9
1,746.47	Redrow	528	+7	...	6.5
2,027.46	Safestore	930	-51½	...	5.2
1,350.30	Savills‡	934½	-40½	...	9.3
7.27	Secure Property♦	5⅝	...	...	14.8
9,839.52	**Segro**	804	-23¾	...	2.3
508.07	SIG	43	-¼	...	...
431.54	SigmaRoc♦	62⅛	-¾	...	...
921.29	Sirius Real Estate	78¼	-3½	...	6.1
66.54	Smart (J)‡	164½	...	...	4.5
81.03	Steppe Cement♦	37	-3	...	8.5
4,402.62	**Taylor Wimpey**‡	124⅝	-1⅜	...	8.2
71.23	Town Centre	147	+8	...	5.8
1,971.24	Travis Perkins‡	927½	-20¾	...	9.0
2,722.88	Tritax Big Box Reit‡	145⅝	-8⅛	...	2.6
530.88	Tritax Eurobox	65¾	+¼	...	...
501.50	Tyman‡	255½	+3½	...	10.1
3,651.13	**Unite**‡	912	-39½	...	10.6
2,720.82	Vistry Group‡	787	+1	...	6.9
436.76	Warehouse REIT	102¾	-4⅛	...	2.4
889.97	Workspace Grp	464⅜	-20½	...	-6.9
16.99	Wynnstay Props♦	630	...	...	4.5

Consumer goods

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
0.90	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
14.06	Airea♦‡	34	-2	...	12.5
343.25	Anglo-Eastern	866	+30	...	7.9
116.58	Animalcare♦	194	+6½	...	...
14,906.98	**AB Foods**	1915½	-7½	...	31.6
529.59	Bakkavor Group‡	91⅜	-4⅛	...	9.5
572.47	Barr (AG)‡	511	-15	...	18.1
23.42	Bidstack Group♦	1¾	...	...	-1.4
9.08	Brand Architekts♦	32½	...	...	-1.4
60,582.00	**Brit Amer Tob**	2709	-95	...	9.1
2,409.80	Britvic	933	-3	...	21.1
9,515.93	**Burberry**	2516	-27	...	21.6
603.62	C&C Grp	153½	-2⅜	...	-9.1
8.04	Capital Metals♦	4¼	+1½	...	-1.1
125.16	Carr's Grp‡	133	+4¾	...	16.4
63.74	Character Grp♦	330	-12	...	5.8
171.57	Churchill China♦	1560	+145	...	...
9,427.63	**Coca Cola HBC**	2561	+41	...	20.4
54.46	Colefax♦	752½	...	...	13.3
1,689.08	Cranswick	3144	-118	...	16.6
562.20	Devro	329	+½	...	17.8
79,613.34	**Diageo**	3534½	-136	...	27.1
3.76	Distil♦	½	...	...	13.7
448.39	Evans (M.P.)♦‡	832	+8	...	7.1
121.26	Finsbury Food♦	93	-2	...	11.0
3,235.43	Games Workshop‡	9830	+60	...	27.0
3,323.49	Glanbia	1231⅝	+29½	...	30.3
415.16	Greencore	83½	-3⅛	...	16.7
228.56	Headlam‡	283	-4	...	12.2
644.81	Hilton Food	721	-15	...	15.0
39.92	Hornby♦	23½	...	...	...
17,357.80	**Imperial Brands**	1885	-15	...	6.3
2.62	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	-⅛	...	7.9
14,436.96	Kerry Gp‡	8153	-113⅛	...	22.5
55.44	McBride	31¾	-⅛	...	-5.6
144.19	Mulberry Group♦	240	...	...	9.9
379.35	Nichols♦	1040	-30	...	...
158.91	Norcros	178	-4	...	5.6
371.01	Origin Ents♦	335¼	...	...	10.5
1.01	Pittards♦	7	-3¼	...	3.3
68.29	Portmeirion♦‡	488	-19½	...	20.7
16.12	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
842.02	PZ Cussons	196⅜	-3⅜	...	22.6
42.52	REA	97	+4½	...	-7.6
1.14	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
13.13	Tandem♦‡	240	...	...	3.4
430.77	Treatt	707	+43	...	28.3
0.89	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2¼	...	...	-1.5
126,074.03	Unilever (NV)	4995	-48	...	25.6
109,897.24	**Unilever**	4353½	-45½	...	22.3
600.31	Victoria♦	522	-46	...	...

Engineering

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
0.31	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
292.29	Avon Rubber	966	+23	...	...
1,577.46	Babcock	312	...	...	-1.9
30,188.31	**BAE**	988	-2⅛	...	18.0
19.44	Braime A N/V♦‡	1350	-50	...	15.2
25.20	Braime Group♦‡	1750	+100	...	19.7
14.83	Caffyns	550	...	...	7.9
6.74	Cap XX Ld♦	1¼	...	...	-2.8
162.91	Castings	374	...	...	18.0
4.66	Chamberlin♦	3⅝	-¼	...	-0.2
29.16	Checkit♦	27	-1	...	-3.2
207.50	Cohort♦	500½	+40½	...	44.4
112.50	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
86.88	Dewhurst♦	1075	...	...	12.3
75.68	Dialight	228	+8	...	...
3,517.67	Electrolux 'B'	1279⅝	-32⅜	...	9.6
17.00	Feedback♦	127½	-5	...	...
142.30	Gooch Hsego♦	568	-6	...	42.0
336.04	Goodwin	4370	+290	...	24.1
9,274.74	**Halma**	2443	+53	...	35.3
1,060.65	Hill & Smith	1324	-36	...	31.1
3.21	Holders Tech♦	76	...	...	4.6
3.01	Image Scan♦	2⅛	...	...	12.9
4,178.15	IMI‡	1602	-72	...	21.8
1.32	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
620.89	Judges Scientific♦	9740	-140	...	49.1
10.79	LPA♦	80	+½	...	...
6,261.19	Meggitt	798¾	+¾	...	...
6,238.41	**Melrose**	461½	+39	...	...
819.01	Morgan Advanced	287	-10½	...	12.1
47.60	Mpac♦	232½	-2½	...	6.1
80.58	MS Intl♦	490	-4½	...	70.0
1,636.16	Oxford Inst	2835	+40	...	38.7
14,612.80	Philips El nv	1643⅛	-28⅜	...	29.2
4.54	PipeHawk♦	12½	...	...	26.6
17.21	Pressure Tech♦#	44½	+½	...	-3.7
2,691.72	Renishaw	3698	+48	...	21.1
69.88	Renold♦	31	+3½	...	11.0
12,409.15	**Rolls-Royce**	148¼	-2¾	...	...
1.69	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
2,827.06	Rotork‡	328⅜	...	...	35.7
156.08	SDI Group♦	150	-26	...	24.7
726.43	Senior‡	173⅛	+1½	...	30.2
201.20	Severfield	65	...	...	11.6
10.17	Six Hundred♦	8⅝	-⅛	...	50.4
5,881.98	SKF B	1380⅞	-46¾	...	10.2
3.15	Slingsby (HC)♦	300	...	...	4.9
5,842.27	**Smiths**‡	1661½	-10½	...	26.4
127.40	Solid State♦	1125	-5	...	27.1
187.06	Somero Enter♦	335	+5	...	7.4
3,995.37	Spectris	3817	-11	...	12.5
8,165.90	**Spirax-Sarco**‡	11070	-375	...	34.8
90.60	Surface Trsfms♦	37½	+3	...	...
5.31	Tanfield♦	3¼	...	...	-9.0
422.03	Thorpe FW♦	360	+5	...	25.0
17.14	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
13.17	Transense Tech♦	84	+2½	...	61.7
2,513.35	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+8	...	37.4
1,103.84	Vesuvius‡	407	-4	...	10.8
336.43	Videndum‡	722	-29	...	13.2
433.57	Volex♦	272½	-14½	...	14.8
4,631.48	**Weir**‡	1784	-26½	...	30.1
439.27	XP Power	2225	-40	...	11.8
10.21	Zytronic♦	100½	-2	...	33.5

Health

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2,810.87	Abcam♦	1226	-41	...	...
532.60	AdvancedMedical♦	245½	+6	...	38.6
42.44	Allergy Therap♦#	6¼	...	...	-7.3
54.07	Angle♦	20¾	+½	...	-2.8
52.23	Anpario♦	217½	-25	...	11.4
186,137.86	**AstraZeneca**	12010	+88	...	...
142.66	Circassia Group♦	34	-¾	...	34.0
4,537.40	**Convatec**‡	222	+10	...	51.8
23.95	Creighton	35	-2	...	6.7
4,256.83	Dechra Pharma	3738	+48	...	55.8
10.99	Deltex Medical♦	1½	...	...	-9.1
74.14	e-Therapeutics♦	12⅝	+¼	...	...
81.94	Eco Animal Hlth♦	121	-1½	...	14.6
115.70	EKF Diagnostics♦	25½	-1⅞	...	7.2
125.22	Futura Medical♦	42¾	-8¼	...	...
1,703.63	Genus	2590	-184	...	46.0
60,204.41	**GSK**	1470⅛	+7¾	...	16.9
1.69	Gunsynd♦	⅜	...	...	3.6
31,674.59	**Haleon**	343	+1½	...	...
4,093.81	Hikma Pharms	1852½	-21½	...	13.8
1,966.12	Hutchmed China♦	227	-35½	...	...
109.44	Immunodiag Sys♦	378	...	...	...
8.67	ImmuPharma♦	2½	-⅛	...	-0.8
2,048.83	Indivior	1486	-99	...	85.0
30.50	Inspiration Health♦	44⅝	-1¼	...	6.9
9.43	IXICO♦	19½	+¼	...	6.2
3,637.56	Mediclinic	493⅜	-4½	...	30.8

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
4.27	N4 Pharma♦	1¾	– ⅛	...	-2.1
CHF197.243bn	Novartis	CHF92.53	– 0.05	...	10.5
5.94	Omega Diags♦	2½	...	...	-0.9
5.51	Ovoca Bio♦	6¾	+ ¾	...	-1.9
393.08	Oxford Biomedica	407½	– 7½	...	18.3
2.78	Physiomics♦	2¾	– ⅛	...	...
13.70	Proteome Scies♦	4⅝	+ ⅜	...	...
46,488.51	**Reckitt Benckiser**‡	6490	+ 56	...	...
9.10	RUA Life Sciences♦	41	– 2½	...	-3.9
86.79	Sareum Hldgs♦	127½	– 15	...	...
11,144.29	**Smith & Neph**‡	1276	+ 10	...	28.9
967.84	Spire Hcare	239½	+ 3	...	...
19.64	Synairgen♦	9¾	+ 1¼	...	-0.4
40.10	Tissue Regenix♦	57	+ ⅜	...	...
42.36	Totally♦	21½	...	...	34.2
157.13	Tristel♦	332½	...	...	68.5
10.23	ValiRx♦	10	+ ¼	...	...

Industrials

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
141.72	Accsys Tech♦	64½	– ⅞	...	...
36,671.77	BASF	4102⅝	– 37	...	8.0
45,979.02	Bayer DM50	4680⅛	– 432⅞	...	54.6
4.60	Biome Tech♦	122½	– 5	...	-4.0
7.72	Byotrol♦	1⅝	...	...	...
4.98	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
1,177.59	Coats Grp‡	73⅝	– ¼	...	16.4
9,486.83	**Croda**‡	6794	– 50	...	29.6
71.66	Cropper (James)♦	750	– 10	...	22.8
695.08	Elementis	118⅜	– 5¾	...	...
7.95	Hardide♦	13½	+ 1	...	-2.6
3,561.75	**Johnson Math**	1941½	– 2	...	24.4
6,219.94	**Mondi**‡	1281	– 1	...	9.7
15.66	Robinson♦	93½	...	...	...
4,319.68	**DS Smith**	313½	– 2½	...	17.8
5,109.67	Swire Pacific	595½	– 35¼	...	...
14.32	Symph Environ♦	7¾	– ½	...	...
518.28	Synthomer	110⅞	– 6⅜	...	2.3
41,720.65	Takeda Pharm	2636⅝	– 77⅝	...	14.7
50.46	Velocys♦	3½	+ ¼	...	-4.5
1,322.68	Victrex	1520	– 144	...	18.1
96.98	Wynnstay Group♦	430	– 12½	...	9.8
184.76	Zotefoams‡	380	– 10	...	22.8

Leisure

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
367.48	888 Hldgs	82	+ 4	...	6.0
295.97	Accesso Tech♦	715	+ 7	...	18.8
51.77	Best of the Best♦	550	– 10	...	6.1
9,130.07	Carnival	700¾	– 1½	...	-1.1
120.53	Celtic♦	127½	...	...	12.6
12.09	Cineworld	⅞	...	...	...
1,269.47	Domino's Pizza	302⅜	– 9¾	...	15.4
8,632.55	**Entain**	1466	– 13	...	32.8
28,090.51	**Flutter Ent**	15920	+ 450	...	...
93.88	Gaming Realms♦	32⅛	– ¼	...	...
14.58	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
5.53	Heavitree A♦	110	...	...	6.6
2.80	Hermes Pacific♦	120	...	...	...
9,049.75	**InterContinental Hotels**‡	5266	– 146	...	49.3
8.27	Minoan Gp♦	1⅛	...	...	-7.9
1,173.86	Mitch & Butlers	196½	+ 18¼	...	...
204.60	On The Beach	122¾	– 5⅜	...	-6.4
457.47	PPHE Hotels‡	1080	– 20	...	-8.7
469.37	Rank Grp	100⅛	+ 3⅜	...	13.5
386.36	Restaurant Gp	50½	+ 3¾	...	-9.5
14.27	Rotala♦	46	+ 5	...	...
18.25	Sportech♦	18¼	– 1¼	...	...
2,059.14	SSP	258½	+ ½	...	-5.0
4.76	Tasty♦	3¼	+ ½	...	4.3
14.76	Tintra♦	90	+ 15	...	-1.5
1,724.83	Tui	510¾	– 20⅛	...	-5.3
5.51	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	– ⅛	...	...
975.93	Wetherspoon JD	758	+ 3½	...	-7.0
6,463.11	**Whitbread**	3210	– 43	...	...
698.89	Young & Co - A♦	1195	+ 25	...	...
438.63	Young & Co - N/V♦	750	– 29	...	...

Media

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
18.78	7digital Gp♦	⅝	...	...	-5.7
7.77	Aeorema Comms♦	81½	+ 2½	...	22.5
31.53	Altitude Group♦	44½	+ 2½	...	...
9.70	Arcontech Grp♦	72½	...	...	10.0
1,053.12	Ascential	239⅛	– 2	...	...
5,784.47	**Auto Trader**	631	– 12	...	31.1
355.41	Bloomsbury Pub	435½	– 5	...	17.9
5.96	Bonhill Group♦	5	– ½	...	...
29.44	Catalyst Media♦	140	...	...	...
0.40	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
569.16	Daily Mail‡	270	...	...	10.3
2.54	DCD Media♦#	100	– 50	...	5.0
57.80	Ebiquity♦	48	+ ½	...	...
1,595.85	Euromoney In Inv	1460	+ 2	...	...
1,244.84	Future	1030	– 66	...	17.7
1,543.85	GlobalData♦	1305	+ 35	...	64.6
351.72	Hyve Group	120½	+ ⅛	...	...
158.26	IG Design Grp♦	161½	– 7½	...	23.6
9,882.21	**Informa**	699½	+ 4¾	...	...
3,008.06	ITV‡	74½	– 4⅜	...	8.0
4.34	Jaywing♦	4⅝	...	...	...
4.55	Live Company Gp♦	1¾	– ⅜	...	-0.3
0.77	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-5.5
10.90	Merit Grp♦	45½	– 1	...	...
1.69	Mirada♦	19	...	...	-0.8
46.42	Mission Group♦	51	– ½	...	8.6
1,431.27	Moneysupermarket	266½	– 3	...	27.2
5,407.12	News Corp A	1414⅛	+ 41¼	...	23.0
2,748.68	News Corp B	1422⅛	+ 38	...	23.2
787.05	Next 15 Comms♦	799	– 11	...	...
5,892.42	**Pearson**	822¾	– 1¾	...	39.3
404.49	Photo-Me	107	+ 1½	...	18.6
4.40	Primorus Inv♦	3⅛	+ ⅛	...	5.7
67.88	Quarto	166	+ 3½	...	9.2
241.72	Reach‡	76⅛	– 11⅛	...	84.6
14.01	REACT Grp♦	1¼	...	...	18.9
47,347.91	**Relx**‡	2491	+ 57	...	32.8
4,591.60	**Rightmove**‡	560⅛	– 19½	...	31.7
1.81	SpaceandPeople♦	92½	– 4	...	...
117.74	STV Group‡	252	+ 3	...	6.1
26.63	System1 Group♦	210	...	...	10.0
6,541.65	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2431¼	– 132¼	...	13.3
5,270.59	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2237¼	– 119⅜	...	12.2
3.09	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.3
239.80	Wilmington	272	+ 4	...	17.3
9,620.02	**WPP**	895⅛	+ 6⅛	...	17.0
23.77	Zinc Media♦	109	+ 26½	...	-6.9

Natural resources

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2.38	ADM Energy♦	¾	...	...	-0.1
2.67	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
136.85	AFC Energy♦	18¼	– 2⅛	...	...
...	Afentra PLC	...	...	...	...
7.13	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.0
25.04	Alien Metals♦	⅜	...	...	...
2,259.97	Alumina	77⅞	– 2⅝	...	16.2
46.32	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.4
23.64	Amur Mins Corp♦	1⅝	...	...	...
12,620.10	Anglo Amer Plat	4757	+ 4709⅜	...	3.4
31,265.88	**Anglo American**	2337½	– 109½	...	4.6
130.24	Anglo Asian Mng♦	114	+ 7½	...	9.8
13,772.42	**Antofagasta**‡	1397	– 72½	...	14.4
43.82	Arc Minerals♦	3½	– ⅛	...	2.5
30.09	Ariana Res♦	2⅝	– ⅛	...	3.5
1.68	Arkle Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.4
7.93	Armadale Cap♦	1¼	...	...	...
21.32	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	⅞	– ⅛	...	...
469.99	Atalaya Mine♦	336	– 4	...	4.2
20.31	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
23.14	Beowulf Mining♦	2	...	...	-8.7
3.12	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.8
118,130.09	BHP Group	2334	– 59	...	10.2
20.02	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2⅝	...	...	...
80.23	Bougainville	20	+ 1½	...	...
3.52	BowLeven♦	1	...	...	-1.3
85,064.11	**BP**‡	483	– 9¼	...	17.5
17.06	Cadence Min♦	9⅞	...	...	0.9
4.15	Cadogan Petrol	1⅝	– ¼	...	23.6
205.31	Caledonia Mining♦	1070	– 85	...	10.4
665.85	Capricorn Energy	211⅜	– 13	...	1.6
138.41	Caspian Sunrise♦	6⅛	...	...	...
1,255.74	Centamin	108⅜	– 2⅜	...	16.8
370.52	Cent Asia Metals♦‡	204	+ 2	...	5.9
66.04	Chaarat Gold♦	9½	+ ½	...	...
157.85	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	16⅜	+ ⅛	...	...
7.07	China Nonferr Gold♦	1¾	...	...	...
4.90	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-2.2
56.05	Condor Gld♦	31	– 1½	...	...
3.25	Corcel♦	¼	...	...	-0.3
846.85	DRD Gold	97⅞	+ 96⅞	...	11.5
6.42	ECR Minerals♦	½	...	...	-3.4
1.30	Edenville Energy♦	4¾	...	...	-0.3
9.45	Empyrean Energy♦	1⅛	...	...	-8.5
5,077.79	**Endeavour**	2052	– 16	...	30.5
299.11	EnQuest	15¾	...	...	1.0
82.18	Eurasia Mining♦	2⅞	– ⅜	...	...
10.07	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1	...	...	9.5
626.25	Ferrexpo	104⅝	– 5⅛	...	0.8
5,019.72	**Fresnillo**‡	681⅛	– 48¾	...	16.1
43.86	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
21.93	Galantas Gold♦	19	– 2⅜	...	-3.2
5.16	GCM Resources♦	2¾	– ⅛	...	-2.2
34.09	Gem Diamonds	24⅜	– 1¾	...	2.5
10.18	Getech♦	15⅛	– ⅝	...	-3.6
54,142.04	**Glencore**‡	432¼	– 11¾	...	15.8
2.34	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-2.7
11,241.86	Gold Fields	1258⅛	+ 1245¾	...	19.3
14.26	Goldplat♦	8½	– ¼	...	6.4
18.44	Goldstone Res♦	3⅝	– ½	...	...
430.83	Greatld Gld♦	8½	– ⅜	...	...
174.51	Griffin Mining♦	90½	– 1⅜	...	9.9
320.48	Gulf Keystone	148⅛	+ 9¾	...	9.2
27.95	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	16⅛	– 1	...	1.3
416.75	Hochschild	81	+ 2⅝	...	7.8
376.29	Horizonte Minrls♦	140	– ½	...	...
350.50	Hunting PLC‡	212½	– 8½	...	-5.4
20.70	IGas Energy♦	16¼	– 2⅛	...	-0.8
1.78	Independ Res♦	...	...	...	...
356.80	Indus Gas♦	195	...	...	20.2
12.64	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-5.0
463.47	ITM Power♦	75⅛	– 7¾	...	...
220.92	Jubilee Metals♦	8	– ⅝	...	6.7
2.28	Karel Diamd Res♦	2⅝	...	...	...
36.44	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	⅞	...	...	-3.7
424.84	Kenmare Res‡	448	+ 2½	...	5.2
37.60	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
13.55	Landore Res♦	11¾	...	...	-2.6
4.22	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅜	...	...	...
3.42	Leeds Group♦	12½	...	...	-2.0
24.06	Lexington Gold♦	8½	+ 1⅝	...	...
40.97	MC Mining♦	10¼	– ¼	...	-2.1
38.64	Metals Explorn♦	1¾	...	...	3.1
1.64	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.3
17.02	Nostrum O&G#	10	+ ¼	...	...
4,549.45	Oil Search	218⅞	+ 5⅜	...	60.3
13.60	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
6.41	Oriole Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-2.2
3.54	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
8.86	Orosur Mining♦	4⅝	...	...	-7.0
345.74	Pan African Res♦	18	– 1⅞	...	5.8
140.40	Pantheon Res♦	17¾	– 1⅝	...	...
24.04	Parkmead Grp♦	22	– 1	...	-1.9
3.48	Pathfinder Mins♦	½	...	...	-4.5
130.89	Petra Diamonds	67⅜	+ ½	...	2.2
2.49	Petrel Resources♦	1⅜	...	...	-7.1
79.09	Petro Matad♦	7	+ ¾	...	...
365.70	Petrofac	70	– ¾	...	-1.8
1.29	Petroneft Res♦	...	– ⅛	...	-0.3
47.51	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	+ ⅛	...	1.6
181.13	Phoenix Global♦	6½	– ½	...	-1.6
2.91	Plexus Holdings♦	2⅞	– ¼	...	-0.7
1,184.07	Polymetal Intl	250	– 35	...	...
305.97	Porvair‡	660	+ 30	...	25.3
25.65	Prospex Energy♦	9	+ ¾	...	...
167.05	Proton Motor Power S♦	10¾	...	...	-1.9
34.84	Providence Res♦	3¼	– ⅛	...	29.0
21.36	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	1½	...	...	-5.8
8.71	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
16.42	Reabold Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-3.3
2.31	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.8
21,379.17	Rio Tinto Ltd	5759⅛	– 116¼	...	6.0
79,769.90	**Rio Tinto**	4917½	– 74½	...	5.1
115.85	San Leon Energy♦	25¾	– 1¼	...	9.6
3.60	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
24.24	Serabi Gold♦	32	+ 1¼	...	4.3
892.53	Serica Energy♦	233	+ 5⅛	...	...
121.97	Shanta Gold♦‡	11½	– ⅛	...	7.3
164,574.17	**Shell**	2409	+ 18½	...	12.7
35.13	Sound Energy♦	1⅞	...	...	11.8
3.57	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	...
2.87	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-3.8
6.58	Thor Mining♦	¼	...	...	-1.7
118,596.81	Total Eng SE	4857¾	– 27¾	...	11.1
4.61	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-2.3
344.43	Tullow Oil	23¾	– 2½	...	2.3
13.71	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-2.1
2.47	URU Metals♦	150	...	...	4.8
19.47	Vast Res♦	⅝	...	...	-0.1
9.99	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	– ⅛	...	-1.8
3.89	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3.17	Westmount Engy♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
1,515.13	Wood Grp (J)	219	– 1	...	-9.0
13.05	Woodbois♦	½	+ ⅛	...	2.0
14.99	Xtract Resources♦	1¾	...	...	-3.1
71.84	Zephyr Energy♦	4½	+ ⅛	...	-5.7

Professional & support services

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
1,256.83	4imprint Grp‡	4475	+ 190	...	75.5
223.32	Andrews Sykes♦	530	+ 5	...	16.9
20,682.60	**Ashtead**	4717	+ 80	...	22.9
1.26	Asimilar Group♦	1	...	...	...
76.15	AssetCo♦	54	...	...	0.3
55.39	Avisen♦	50	...	...	...
202.41	Begbies Traynor♦	131	– 4	...	...
134.38	Blancco Tech♦	177½	...	...	63.6
10,759.75	**Bunzl**	3186	+ 13	...	24.1
559.52	Capita	33⅛	...	...	2.5
8.19	CEPS♦	39	...	...	-8.8
39.79	Christie Group♦	150	+ 15	...	63.8
37,638.27	**Compass**	2157	+ 88	...	52.4
18.49	CPPGroup♦	209	– 3	...	...
7.12	Croma Security♦	47¾	– ⅛	...	6.8
4,659.88	**DCC**	4719	– 146	...	15.6
82.08	De La Rue	42	+ ⅛	...	5.5
3,819.98	Diploma	2850	+ 152	...	50.9
778.56	Discoverie	808	+ 2	...	66.2
17.24	Driver Group♦	33	+ 1	...	15.7
587.98	Essentra	198¾	– 9⅝	...	22.3
25,285.93	**Experian**	2751	+ 58	...	35.2
23,837.15	Ferguson	11630	+ 645	...	17.1
33.80	FIH Group♦	270	+ 4	...	...
11.45	Grafenia♦	10	...	...	-7.4
126.04	Hargeaves Serv♦	387½	– 12	...	4.0
297.20	Impellam Grp♦	660	– 2½	...	36.0
18.90	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
6,646.17	**Intertek**	4118	– 100	...	23.1
1,512.04	IWG	150⅛	– 18½	...	-5.7
522.42	Johnson Srvce♦‡	123¾	...	...	77.3
27.81	Journeo♦	171½	– 4½	...	38.4
343.66	Kier Gp	77	+ ⅝	...	7.5
248.07	Latham (J)♦	1230	– 20	...	6.7
252.53	Lok'n Store♦‡	840	+ 16	...	25.4
337.18	Lon Security♦	2750	– 350	...	15.1
299.46	LSL Prop Services‡	288	– 11	...	8.0
176.55	Macfarlane‡	111½	– ½	...	12.9
15.08	Maintel Hldgs♦	105	– 4	...	3.2
4.03	Malvern Intl♦	16½	+ ½	...	...
272.04	Mears Group	245	+ 14	...	21.3
558.16	Menzies (John)	607	+ 1	...	48.0
1,262.14	Mitie Gp	92½	+ ½	...	46.3
5.58	MobilityOne♦	5¼	– 2¾	...	3.9
5.30	Newmark Sec♦	56½	...	...	...
3.25	Norm Broadbent♦	5¼	...	...	-9.9
9.36	Northern Bear♦	50	– 2	...	5.1
127.97	NWF Grp♦	259	+ 4	...	...
1,449.21	PageGroup	441	– 8	...	11.9
35.67	PCI-PAL♦	54½	+ 5½	...	...
4.24	Petards♦	7½	– ¾	...	13.6
1.84	PHSC♦	15½	...	...	28.1
32.65	PowerHouse Egy♦	¾	...	...	-1.4
170.39	Record	85½	+ 1⅛	...	23.5
869.87	Redde Northgate	379½	+ 5½	...	9.5
580.84	Renew Hldgs♦	734	– 6	...	18.1
476.69	Renewi	594	– 12	...	12.5
16,269.38	**Rentokil**‡	645½	+ 15⅛	...	45.7
402.56	Restore♦	294	+ ½	...	35.0
360.87	Ricardo	580	+ 2	...	51.7
314.39	Robert Walters‡	420	– 17	...	9.6
4.66	Roebuck Food Grp♦	15½	...	...	2.3
613.30	RPS Group	221	...	...	...
4,050.95	**RS Group**	856¾	– 5⅛	...	21.7
2.49	RTC Group♦	17	...	...	...
969.03	RWS Hldgs♦	248¾	– 2½	...	22.8
183.71	Science Group♦	406	...	...	18.7
1,681.68	Serco‡	150⅛	– ⅜	...	6.1
122.61	Smiths News	49½	+ ⅝	...	4.8
7,752.45	**Smurfit Kappa**‡	2980	+ 38	...	13.5
66.39	Staffline Gp♦	40	+ ⅝	...	30.8
535.17	SThree‡	398	– 15	...	12.8
18.95	Synectics♦	106½	+ ½	...	...
37.53	Thruvision Group♦	25½	...	...	-9.2
84.78	Tribal♦	39⅞	+ ¾	...	12.4
20.74	Vianet♦	72	...	...	...
263.01	Vp	655	– 5	...	16.1
3.97	Westminster♦	1⅛	...	...	-1.4

Real estate

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2,209.04	Shaftesbury Cap	113	– 3½	...	33.2

Retailing

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
438.16	AO World	75⅞	– 1¾	...	...
4,925.11	**B&M European**	491½	+ 4⅜	...	11.4
124.33	Brown (N)♦	27	– 1	...	7.9
347.45	Card Factory	101⅜	– 1¾	...	...
1,565.00	CVS Group♦	2192	+ 110	...	61.4
292.68	DFS Furn‡	125	– ⅛	...	6.6
2,337.44	Dunelm	1159	+ 2	...	15.6
3,632.28	**Frasers Group**	777	+ 2	...	34.5
2,912.49	Greggs‡	2852	– 50	...	24.9
434.79	Halfords	198½	– 6⅜	...	6.6
3,828.89	Howden Joinery‡	693½	– 9½	...	13.0
3,200.81	Inchcape‡	775	– 12	...	26.1
4.47	IQ-AI	2⅜	– ⅛	...	-7.0
8,979.78	**JD Sports**	173¼	+ 10½	...	20.9
4,845.76	**Kingfisher**	250	– 2⅞	...	6.2
326.65	Lookers‡	85¼	– ⅝	...	5.4
3,295.44	Marks & Spencer	167⅝	+ 2⅞	...	...
33.27	Mothercare♦	5⅞	– ¾	...	-3.6
80.66	Naked Wines♦	109	– 4	...	...
8,757.65	**Next**	6818	+ 18	...	13.0
3,648.46	**Ocado**	441⅜	– 54	...	...
246.14	Pendragon	17½	...	...	5.5
1,881.57	Pets at Home	389⅜	+ 3	...	15.8
159.98	Saga	114	– 8	...	...
6,825.35	**Sainsbury's**	289¼	+ 2	...	24.3
2,136.48	WH Smith	1632	+ 9	...	...
59.57	Sosandar♦	24	– 1½	...	...
6.83	Stanley Gbbns♦	1½	...	...	-1.6
100.06	Studio Retail#	115	– 6	...	2.4
209.59	Ted Baker	109¾	– ⅛	...	...
20,168.41	**Tesco**‡	275⅝	– 7¼	...	14.0
97.75	Topps Tiles	49⅝	+ ¼	...	9.0

Technology

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
99.61	Access Intell♦	78	...	...	...
32.38	Aferian plc♦	38	...	...	6.8
421.54	Alfa Financial	142½	– 2½	...	22.3
32.89	Allied Minds	13¾	+ 4¼	...	-1.2
208.14	Aptitude Software	363	– 2	...	40.7
153.49	Bango♦	200	– 10	...	...
109.01	BATM Adv Coms	25	– 1⅛	...	10.4
89.16	Berkeley Res	20	– ¼	...	-8.5
24.81	Blackbird♦	6¾	– 2¼	...	...
7.94	CloudCoCo Group♦	1⅛	...	...	-2.6
2,757.65	Computacenter	2416	+ 66	...	15.0
50.62	Concurrent Tech♦	69	– ½	...	16.3
33.25	Corero♦	6⅝	...	...	...
548.22	Craneware♦	1545	+ 45	...	70.4
20.38	Crimson Tide♦	3	...	...	20.6
47.52	CyanConn Hldgs♦	17½	+ ¼	...	...
81.64	D4t4 Solutions♦	205	+ 7½	...	24.2
1.29	DeepMatter Gp♦	...	...	...	-0.1
3.93	Dillistone Group♦	20	...	...	-5.8
25.59	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-2.5
691.67	FDM Group	632	– 35	...	21.9
24.74	Filtronic♦	11½	...	...	31.0
498.99	First Derivts♦	1778	– 72	...	...
772.14	GB Group♦	305¾	– 11½	...	23.3
122.12	GreshamTech‡	146	+ 2½	...	...
76.86	Ilika♦	48½	+ 3½	...	...
16.06	Ingenta♦	110½	– ½	...	64.6
33.77	Intercede♦	58	– 2½	...	20.0
185.98	Iomart♦	168⅛	+ 3¾	...	18.4
191.71	IQE♦	23¾	– 1⅜	...	...
50.32	K3 Business Tch♦	112½	...	...	-1.9
5,662.64	LG Electronics	1435⅜	...	...	3.8
3.97	Location Sciences♦	⅛	...	...	-2.5
1,804.83	Micro Focus Intl	532	+ 1	...	-5.6
43.78	MTI Wireless♦	49½	– 2	...	16.4
59.33	Nanoco Gp	18⅜	+ ½	...	...
159.49	Netcall♦	99½	– ½	...	...
10.21	Northamber♦	37½	...	...	...
2.08	Online Blockchain♦	14½	...	...	-7.6
121.12	Oxford Metrics♦	93	...	...	40.4
4.90	Parity♦	4¾	...	...	-6.8
14.90	Pennant Intl♦	40½	...	...	...
1,905.25	Playtech	616	+ 31½	...	6.4
2,149.50	QinetiQ	371⅜	+ 5	...	29.0
70.46	RM	84	+ 2½	...	16.8
8,360.47	**Sage**	816⅛	+ 3¾	...	31.3
236.89	Seeing Machines♦	5⅝	...	...	...
14.89	Shearwater Grp♦	62½	+ ½	...	38.7
15.63	Smartspace S'ware♦	54	+ 11	...	-5.6
2,637.87	Softcat‡	1322	– 42	...	25.9
1,072.99	Spirent Comms	177¾	– ⅝	...	16.5
81.69	SRT Marine♦	45	+ 1¼	...	...
12,818.40	Tele. Ericsson	417⅛	– 10½	...	7.6
8.05	Touchstar♦	95	– 7½	...	...
293.35	Tracsis♦	980	+ 30	...	...
8.50	Trakm8♦	17	...	...	...
25.37	Triad Grp	153	+ 3	...	16.7
880.27	Wandisco♦#	1310	...	...	...
96.30	Water Intel♦	447½	+ 20	...	24.6
143.56	Xaar	183	+ 1	...	...
7.47	Yourgene♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
132.33	Zoo Digital♦	135½	– 13	...	...

Telecoms

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
50.21	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	+ 1½	...	...
4,325.63	**Airtel Africa**	115	– 4¾	...	10.2
15,136.63	**BT Group**	152⅜	– 3⅛	...	14.8
634.19	Currys plc	55⅞	– 1¾	...	2.6
1,127.47	Gamma Comms♦	1164	+ 30	...	21.0
966.46	Helios Towers	92	– 9	...	-8.3
3,248.90	Just Eat T'away	1477	+ 51	...	-3.1
4.81	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.5
7.52	Mobile Tornado♦	1¾	...	...	...
1,423.83	Telecom Plus	1792	+ 26	...	45.9
24,257.02	**Vodafone**	89¾	– 5⅛	...	...

Transport

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
94.17	Braemar Ship	286	+ 5	...	9.4
3,705.10	EasyJet	488¾	+ 2½	...	-3.0
52.29	Esken Limited	5	+ ¼	...	-0.2
829.09	FirstGroup	116½	– 6	...	27.7
180.43	Fisher (James)	358	+ 14	...	-6.4
7,675.93	**International Airlines**	154¾	+ 4¼	...	-3.4
2,179.16	IDS	227⅞	– 17⅞	...	2.6
690.34	Irish Cont Uts	404	+ 1	...	...
2,651.31	Jet2♦	1235	+ 53	...	-6.6
718.48	Natl Express‡	117	– 3	...	-6.9
318.27	Ocean Wilson	900	– 5	...	4.5
588.37	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
28.59	Sutton Harbour♦	22	– 1	...	...
270.88	Wincanton	217½	– 2½	...	5.9
3,107.78	Wizz Air	3009	– 94	...	-6.8

Utilities

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
6,497.61	**Centrica**	114¾	+ ½	...	11.5
1,658.27	ContourGlobal	251	+ ½	...	28.3
2,406.99	Drax Group‡	599½	– 11¾	...	44.4
142.17	Jersey Electricity	464	+ 4	...	8.8
42,738.65	**National Grid**	1162	+ 11½	...	27.0
32.66	OPG Power♦	8⅛	+ ⅛	...	5.2
2,219.83	Pennon	849½	– 22½	...	61.5
2.25	Rurelec♦	⅜	...	...	-0.3
7,378.45	**Severn Trent**	2933	– 42	...	...
20,601.91	**SSE**	1889½	+ 28	...	7.3
7,343.94	**United Utilities**	1077	– 17½	...	98.8

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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Dotcom entrepreneur who restored a stately home
Hugo Burge
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Register

Obituaries

Slava Zaitsev

Colourful couturier and stalwart of Russian fashion since Soviet times who was dubbed 'the Red Dior' by the world's press

Known in the West as the Red Dior, Slava Zaitsev was, for a generation of Soviet women longing to cast off their dowdy image and insert some colour into their lives, the only couturier able to design clothes to match the great fashion houses in western Europe.

He was the chosen designer for Raisa Gorbachev, the wife of the Soviet president, and later dressed Vladimir Putin's ex-wife Lyudmila when she accompanied her husband abroad. He also produced costumes for the 1980 Moscow Olympics, hats for the Soviet military, and new uniforms for the police.

He was allowed, even in communist days, to have his own studio and his own brand name. No Russian has ever done more to give millions of women a taste of glamour; no Russian is likely ever again to have such dominance of a market that barely existed before he pioneered fashion in a country where utilitarian clothes were all that communist ideology allowed.

Zaitsev was determined from the start to design clothes that drew on Russian themes, Russian taste and Russian folklore. He knew that women wanted colour, originality and exuberance. His creations were often over-the-top, billowing extravaganzas with swirling, flowing lines. The sleeves were enormous, the colours striking, styles that at times summoned up the ostentation of the tsarist elite and at others relied on vibrant folk images to conjure up Russian history and Russian dance.

OLEG NIKISHIN/GETTY IMAGES



Zaitsev on a runway in Moscow in 2015. His early shows countered Soviet ideology, and featured pop music and modelling

He presented his creations at shows that were raucous and spectacular, replete with loud western pop music, willowy models and showy flourishes. To the grey guardians of Soviet ideology, it was too individual, too western, and too close to the edge of what was permitted.

Yet Zaitsev became wildly popular, a household name in the big cities. He was interviewed on television, quoted in the official press and invoked as the Soviet answer to the fashion houses of Paris, Milan and London. At a time when homosexuality was still illegal, a blind eye was turned to his gay, flamboyant lifestyle. A vivacious, emotional man (and an expert dancer), he made friends with both diplomats and western correspondents, and came as close as possible to being a celebrity in a society that relentlessly beat down the concept of individualism.

Until the fall of communism, however, restrictions were everywhere. The creaking economy could not produce what he needed for his work. "How can I design all my costumes without any buttons?" he asked in exasperation. The Soviet state plan had not provided for the production of any that year.

Furthermore, no dressmaker's mannequins were available and he was forced to use those from the Second World War for most of his career.

At any one time, fabrics, textiles, thread or dyes would be in short supply or unobtainable. Zaitsev had to improvise, sometimes turning to one of his friends among the western journalists in Moscow with a challenging request: "When you go to London, could you get some labels made up with my name and logo for all my creations? I can't get any state enterprise to do that here."

Breaking into fashion was a struggle from the start. Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Zaitsev was born in humble conditions in Ivanovo, 160 miles northeast of Moscow, in 1938. His father was a victim of Stalin's repressions and was sent to a labour camp, while his mother was a cleaner and laundress. After secondary school, he was denied a chance to study at an industrial academy or a theatrical school because his father was deemed an "enemy of the people". Yet in 1952 he was able to enrol in the faculty of applied arts at the University of Chemistry and Technology in Ivanovo.

He studied textile art, graduating in 1956, and resolved to work in this area. Moving to Moscow, he enrolled at the Moscow Textile Institute, graduating in painting and design in 1962. His first job was as the artistic director of an experimental garment factory producing women's clothing for retail stores in the Moscow region. His colourful designs, however, caught the eye of the authorities. More importantly, they were also profiled and praised in the French weekly Paris Match. Foreign attention did much to boost his career.

In 1965 he became chief designer for the All-Union Fashion House, known as Dom Modi. The four-storey building in Moscow was the base from where he began to make a name for himself.

In 1965 the French designers Pierre Cardin, Marc Bohan and Guy Laroche visited Moscow. They did not meet Zaitsev, but were impressed by his work. Cardin told Paris Match that Zaitsev was an "equal among equals". The "Red Dior" label stuck — a moniker that was helpful for foreign publicity, but not how Zaitsev viewed himself.

He made the obligatory bow to communist ideology and joined the party, more to further his career than out of conviction. By the 1980s he was disillusioned and, cold-shouldered by party officials, he resigned his party membership in the late 1980s.



Zaitsev in Germany in 1999. In later years he held shows in Russia, right

By now Zaitsev was ready to head his own business — a risky venture in a Soviet state that did not encourage private enterprise. He set up in a small studio in 1978, but was already in demand. Asked to design stage sets, he was able to show his paintings and was commissioned to design costumes for the Soviet team at the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Nevertheless, he was still not permitted to travel to the West. The authorities did not see him as ideologically reliable, and it was not until 1986 that he was allowed to visit a capitalist country, when he displayed some of his works in the Soviet pavilion at Expo 86 in Vancouver.

Things eased under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev. Dom Modi, by 1984, was employing some 600 people, and serving 10,000 customers a year, produced clothes ranging from $170 to $260 for pret-a-porter dresses to $1,000 for haute couture gowns.

In 1987 Zaitsev signed a direct contract with American fashion outlets, and his own company was allowed to keep the profits. The same year he showed his collection at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York, to lukewarm acclaim, as it was seen as dated and derivative. But it paved the way for future visits to the United States and to western Europe. In 1988 he attended a fashion show in Paris, presenting his collection as "Russian Seasons". Zaitsev was made an honorary citizen of Paris by the then mayor, Jacques Chirac.

Pierre Cardin was impressed, calling him 'an equal among equals'

By now Zaitsev was able to travel more freely. He showed his collections in West Germany under the theme "Fashion and Music Revue '90" and in December 1989 he won first prize in Tokyo at an exhibition of the five top designers in the world for 1990. He came to London to talk to fashion houses, and old friends from Moscow spotted him, to their amazement, being dined at Covent Garden's Rules restaurant.

The end of communism liberated Zaitsev from many petty restrictions, but it also changed his business model. His work was no longer financed by the government, and he had to make money for himself. It was, luckily, a time when his name was big enough to support new initiatives.

In 1992 he launched a women's scent called Maroussia in conjunction with L'Oréal. He also signed up overseas customers including Jane Fonda, Ted Turner and Herb Ritts. He finally achieved the success of presenting his fashion collection in both New York and Beverly Hills, together with his own paintings and drawings, showing at New York's Bowles-Sorokko Galleries.

Official commissions continued to pour in, although the Russian economy at this time was in the throes of the post-Soviet chaos. He designed clothes for the far-right Russian politician Vladimir Zhirinovsky for his 1996 campaign, noting that the firebrand member of the Duma wanted something distinctly Russian. Zaitsev therefore designed a military-style jacket in the style of the 1920s and 30s ("like Stalin, only in new colours").

Zaitsev insisted that his creations be authentically Russian, and not reflect western tastes. There was a nationalist element to his work, which made him popular in the Kremlin.

In 1996, President Yeltsin awarded him the State Prize of the Russian Federation for literature and arts, and that same year he was made an honorary citizen of Ivanovo, the town of his birth. His collection in 2001 featured dresses costing between $10,000 and $12,000. There were plenty of rich "new Russians" willing to pay the price.

In 2003 President Putin made a state visit to Britain, and Zaitsev was asked to design the dress for his wife Lyudmila's audience with the Queen. He later said it took him some time to convince her to wear a hat for the occasion.

He was able to flourish in the free market and to transfer his growing fame from Soviet times to the post-Soviet era. Having achieved renown abroad, with regular reports on him in Time Magazine and the New York Times, he made a public choice to focus on the Russian market rather than compete overseas.

"At the beginning of the 1990s, I had the chance to show in Paris, and I realised that it's not my place," he said in 2008. He did, however, visit some of the former Soviet republics, and that year went to Turkmenistan for a textile exhibition. He expressed his admiration for Turkmen clothing and said he loved the cotton clothes featuring traditional embroidery, which he promised to incorporate into his designs.

Zaitsev was married in 1959 to Marina, and in 1960 had a son, Yegor, who also followed his father into the fashion world. But the marriage did not last, and Zaitsev lived alone in Moscow, adopting a son, Dima, but enjoying the company of young male companions.

He achieved the honour of an extensive exhibition of his work at the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg in 2016, showing many of the creations of the Slava Zaitsev Fashion House.

"Thank God," he wrote on his website. "I found the meaning of life in the search for harmony and perfection through means of the highest art of clothing, the art of painting and graphics, and photography and poetry."

Vyacheslav "Slava" Zaitsev, fashion designer, was born on March 2, 1938. He died of complications from Parkinson's disease on April 30, 2023, aged 85

Register

Hugo Burge

Dotcom entrepreneur who made a fortune from online travel and used it to restore a Palladian mansion in Scotland

Nestling in the Scottish borders, 40 miles southeast of Edinburgh and near the small town of Greenlaw, sits Marchmont House, a 55,000 sq ft Palladian mansion built in 1750 by Hugh Hume-Campbell, the third and last Earl of Marchmont. Over the past dozen years the house had been restored and reinvented as a "place for makers and creators" by Hugo Burge, a dotcom entrepreneur and a devoted follower of the arts and crafts movement.

Unlike a typical country house, where taxidermy and trophies from shooting weekends can hang in the entrance hall, in Marchmont House a sculpture by Henry Moore stands just inside the doorway, while on the 9ft oak table from Sir Edwin Lutyens's house sits *Stranger VII*, a semi-abstract sculpture from 1959 by Lynn Chadwick. Scattered around are more than 120 rush-seated chairs. "Usually you enter country houses and the first thing you see is stuffed animals, but that isn't my cup of tea," Burge told The Sunday Times in 2018. "This makes me feel much more at home."



The story began in the late 1980s when his father, who farmed in Dorset, stumbled across the Marchmont estate. "It had houses and cottages on it, which were unfashionable at the time," Burge recalled. In 2005 they were able to buy the main house, which for many years had been a Sue Ryder care home.

"They had a noble cause but couldn't keep up with the cost of heating it, and the practicality of running a nursing home in the middle of nowhere," he explained, adding that the house can only be accessed via a narrow, winding road.

The banking crisis of 2008 brought his dreams of creating an artists' colony to a juddering halt, but three years later the financial outlook was brighter. "Luckily, our adventures in internet investment and running an internet business went well and we were able to restore the house in a way that we dreamed of," he told the BBC.

Burge and his father spent almost a decade restoring every inch of the property, which includes 14 chimney stacks, 38 walk-in cupboards and 32 lavatories. Out went layers of gloss paint, fire doors and lino floors. In came chandeliers, roaring fires and Georgian furniture and art.

Fifteen tonnes of steel beams were added, along with 20,000 engineering bricks. A chimney piece was relocated, friezes were added to the doors, panelling was installed and stone floors laid down. In the process they used 2,500 litres of paint and chose 100 different colours to use on the walls and woodwork.

Nor was the external environment of Marchmont neglected, with work to conserve the natural habitat of the local flora and fauna, which share the grounds with sculptures such as David Nash's *Black Butt*, a bronze replica of the artist's celebrated "wooden boulder" sculpture at Kew Gardens in London. The great challenge was "making it a home again after being an institution," added Burge, who, alongside his father, won the 2018 Historic Houses restoration award, which is sponsored by Sotheby's.

Yet this was only the beginning. "I wanted to make a place where creativity can be celebrated and nurtured," Burge said. Sculptors, artists, architects and musicians were among the creative people to benefit from his support. He established networks, brought people together for conversations, and hosted residencies, concerts and exhibitions, including one last year dedicated to the artist and musician Rory McEwen, who was born at Marchmont House in 1932. Meanwhile, the stables were transformed into artists' studios and the garage was repurposed as a workshop.

At the centre of it all was Burge, a man whose natural curiosity and enthusiasm shone through, including with the opening two months ago of the Marchmont Silversmithing Workshop.

COLIN HATTERSLEY/SWNS



Burge at Marchmont House in 2020. Left, the estate housed various sculptures

To the surprise of his former dotcom colleagues, Burge recently called for a fightback against the digital revolution, suggesting that it should not take over our entire lives.

"I still invest in internet businesses, and love the way technology is reshaping the world in positive ways, but it also presents a challenge," he explained. "We need arts and crafts to counterbalance the digital revolution, just as we needed the arts and crafts movement to offset the industrial revolution in the 19th century."

Hugo Aylesford Burge was born in London in 1972, the son of Oliver Burge, the founder of Aylesford International estate agents, and his wife Linda (née Henry). "My parents separated and I lived with my mother in Fulham," he said. He was educated at Bedales, in Hampshire, and read geography at Cambridge, emerging in the mid-1990s internet boom to run a web design partnership with a friend.

In early 2000 he invested all his savings and a bank loan in the travel search site Cheapflights and started working there. "It should have been a glamorous move, but it wasn't at all like that. I have never worked so hard in my life," he told the Evening Standard after four months, bemoaning the effect the job was having on his social life. In his limited spare time he enjoyed outdoor sports including tennis and cricket, although a snowboarding accident in Switzerland at the turn of the century left him on crutches for months.

Before long, Burge and David Soskin, a banker, had bought Cheapflights from its founder, John Hatt, former travel editor of Harpers and Queen. "Simplicity, speed and practicality are our founding principles," Burge said, in the days when for most people travel planning involved long telephone calls or visits to a travel agent. "Viewers can now find an ever-greater array of travel providers within three clicks."

Burge and Soskin later set up Howzat media, an internet investment fund that has backed many of the biggest digital names of the past 16 years, including Trivago and Seatfrog. He described taking one online business from only three staff in an "attic in Wandsworth" to employing 270 people.

In 2011 he became chief executive of Cheapflights, leading its acquisition of Momondo, the Danish travel platform. In 2017 the Momondo Group was sold for £440 million. By then this self-described "recovering CEO" was devoting ever more attention to Marchmont House and to his other artistic interests, including Wasps Studios, a provider of art spaces around Scotland, and the Borders Art Fair, where he was patron.

Burge, a handsome man with a lively sense of humour, was unmarried and is survived by his father. He was always open to new artistic ideas and happy to allow public tours around Marchmont House, but unlike many of his stately home neighbours he drew the line at hosting nuptials.

"Weddings are banned," he told the journalist Eleanor Doughty. "It's an easy path to tread, but a slippery slope. I want to be able to sleep at night, and weddings would leave me tossing and turning, worrying they might be taking their toll on the house."

Hugo Burge, dotcom entrepreneur and patron of the arts, was born on April 6, 1972. He died suddenly on May 10, 2023, aged 51

Tori Bowie

World champion sprinter who rose from humble beginnings in rural Mississippi to win three medals at the 2016 Olympics

In lane seven, Tori Bowie looked relaxed before the final of the women's 100m. The date was August 6, 2017 and the venue was the Olympic stadium in London, for the World Athletics Championships.

However, as her competitors exploded out of their starting blocks, the 26-year-old found herself trailing all but one sprinter. Halfway through the race, she had not gained ground on any of her rivals.

Then, with a sudden burst of power, she overtook five women in under three seconds. Still, the Ivorian Marie-Josée Ta Lou was leading by such a margin that the announcer was already calling the event in her favour. Bowie pressed on. Dipping over the line in one final attempt to clinch victory, she lost control of her body and crashed to the ground.

That dip, however, won her the race, by one hundredth of a second. "Yes, I am the world's fastest woman," the bruised athlete beamed during the interview that followed. "Oh my God, I've been waiting to say that for years."

Bowie's rise to the top had, in fact, been meteoric. Originally a long jump specialist, she only devoted herself to sprint disciplines in 2014. The following year, at the World Championships in Beijing, she came third in the 100m. In 2016, she won three Olympic medals at the Rio Games, winning bronze in the 200m, silver in the 100m and gold with her US teammates in the 4 x 100m relay, which she anchored to victory.

"She's a baby compared to the people she was running against," her high school coach Charlie Floyd said that year. "She got a taste of gold in Rio. If she does what she's supposed to over the next four years, she'll win three golds in Tokyo. And it won't even be close."



Bowie at the 2016 Olympic Games

Yet her star faded as fast as it had flared. After she tore her quadriceps in 2018, worsening results and a row with her trainers resulted in her withdrawal from the public eye. She did not attempt to qualify for the 2020 Olympics. In her last known race, a 200m at a Florida meet last June, she ran nearly two seconds slower than her personal best.

Frentorish Bowie was born in 1990 in Sand Hill, Rankin County, Mississippi. Left in a foster care facility by their mother at the age of two, she and her sister Tamarra were eventually adopted by their paternal grandmother, Bobbie Smith. Smith, who had just raised five children of her own, started over with enthusiasm at the age of 47. "I did what I needed to do," Smith said. "My wish for Tori and Tamarra was to be happy. To grow up with a roof over their head. To get an education and a good job."

"It's nothing fancy," Bowie said of Sand Hill, with characteristic restraint. Growing up amid 20 cousins, aunts and uncles in a group of four rural houses, she spent her free time shooting a BB gun at cans in fields full of cows and in woods inhabited by black bears.

Her first love was basketball. But so small was her school that her coach made it mandatory for all basketball players to also participate in track and field, in order to have a full team of each. Bowie was assigned to the long jump.

At this time, she already displayed an aptitude for running. "Tori has a second gear that nobody else has," her sister said. "I have never seen it in anybody — we'd be running against each other, and then all of a sudden, she would just go. It's like a special neutron burner."

Bowie, however, recalled a darker side to her teenage years. "I was into drugs, and I was actually selling them," she said. "It just finally got to the point where I realised that, you know, this won't last long, or I won't last long."

Change came in the form of an athletics scholarship at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she majored in social work. In 2011, Conference USA, an athletic conference for parts of the southern US, named her female athlete of the year, in recognition of her performances in the long jump.

But a freak accident — getting struck by a bottle in a nightclub — left her jaw wired shut for more than two months, leading her to miss the 2012 Olympic trials. Stuck watching the 200m dash in London on TV, she told her grandmother: "I think I can beat those women."

Despite her proficiency in the long jump, Bowie would come to focus all of her energy on the sprint. "Track has allowed me to use this gift I've been given," she said. But the athlete, whose main strength, she said, was to never give up, also acknowledged that performing at the highest level came at a price. "Most of the time you see me, you know, celebrating — I'm smiling, I'm cheering — but behind all of it I just want to cry because it's kind of like, oh my gosh, everything it took to get up unto this point, it can't be described."

Frentorish "Tori" Bowie, athlete, was born on August 27, 1990. She died of undisclosed causes around May 2, 2023, aged 32

Email: obituaries@thetimes.co.uk

Law Report

Parents' right to discuss end-of-life treatment for child outweighs hospital staff's right to anonymity

Court of Appeal
Published May 15, 2023

Abbasi and another v Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Thomas and another v King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Before Lord Burnett of Maldon, Lord Chief Justice, Lady Justice King and Lady Justice Carr
[2023] EWCA Civ 331
Judgment March 31, 2023

Clinicians and NHS staff involved in the withdrawal of end-of-life treatment from a child were not entitled to the benefit of an indefinite reporting restriction order which protected their anonymity and prevented the parents of the deceased child from discussing their child's case.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing the appeals of two sets of parents, (i) Rashid Maqsood and Aliya Abbasi and (ii) Takesha Thomas and Lanre Haastrup, against the refusal by Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division ([2022] Fam 180) to revoke reporting restriction orders made in withdrawal of end-of-life treatment proceedings issued, respectively, by (i) Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and (ii) King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Bruno Quintavalle for the parents; **Gavin Millar KC** and **Fiona Paterson KC** for both NHS trusts; **Fenella Morris KC** for the Royal College of Nursing, intervening; **Jenni Richards KC** for the British Medical Association, intervening; **Alex Ruck Keene KC** for the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine, intervening; **Alistair Robertson** and **Hannah Sladen** for the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, intervening and the Paediatric Critical Care Society, intervening.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appeals concerned the principles to be applied when a court considered an application to vary or discharge a reporting restriction order (RRO) made long before in end-of-life proceedings in the High Court.

Such orders often protected the identities of all those involved in the care of a patient in respect of whom an application to withdraw treatment had been made. That was usually to protect the privacy of the patient, of the patient's immediate family and of those concerned in the treatment of the patient as well as to safeguard the integrity of the proceedings.

Indefinite RROs had been made in the present cases which now had the effect of preventing the parents meaningfully discussing or writing publicly about the circumstances in which their respective children had been treated and died, or mainstream media from doing so if the parents were to spark interest in the circumstances of the cases.

The parents argued, first, that there was no jurisdiction to make the RROs or to continue them in the absence of an identifiable cause of action. The general power to grant injunctions under Section 37 of the Senior Courts Act 1981 was subject to jurisdictional limits contained in Part 39.2 of the Civil Procedure Rules and Part 27.11 of the Family Procedure Rules. There was no jurisdiction to make orders preventing the naming of individuals who were neither parties nor witnesses.

They also argued, inter alia, that the judge had erred in balancing the various rights in play in the present cases. In particular, he struck the wrong balance between the hospital staff's right to privacy, under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and the parents' right to free speech, under Article 10 of that Convention.

As to the first issue, the applications in the end-of-life proceedings to the High Court had been brought under the court's parens patriae jurisdiction (parent of the nation) which enabled the court to protect those who could not protect themselves.

The court enjoyed all the powers available to it under its inherent jurisdiction and by virtue of Section 37 of the 1981 Act. Those powers could be exercised to protect the integrity of the proceedings themselves and those involved in, affected by or connected with the proceedings. In using that language, it was not intended to define the limits of the power.

The Civil Procedure Rules did not expand, still less confine, those powers. It was of no moment that the rules at the time spoke of parties and witnesses and only later of any person. The High Court had always been able to make orders to protect people who were neither parties nor witnesses.

There was, moreover, no need for distinct causes of action to be identified to enable the court to make appropriate orders, including RROs. The Convention rights of those affected by the proceedings had to be considered and, seised of the proceedings, the court was empowered to make such orders as were just and convenient under the inherent jurisdiction and Section 37 of the 1981 Act.

In particular, it might make such orders as it considered necessary to protect the integrity of the proceedings themselves and the administration of justice. If a hospital trust were seeking an injunction to prohibit the identification of its staff, unconnected with end-of-life proceedings or other underlying proceedings in which they were involved, it would have to establish a cause of action of some sort.

Furthermore, the High Court had jurisdiction to entertain an application to set aside the RROs made earlier, not only by virtue of the explicit terms of the orders but also on the basis of an application from a person with a proper interest founded on a change in circumstances. The issue then became whether the orders should be maintained not on the grounds on which they had originally been made but in the light of present circumstances.

Turning to the correct approach to Articles 8 and 10 of the Convention: the judge had performed a balancing exercise which he considered was "plain to see" but in doing so he took into account matters which did not fall to be weighed in the balance when considering the Article 8 Convention rights of the hospital staff, namely the systemic health service impacts referred to in the evidence before him.

In both the present cases the true Article 8 rights of the staff, a significant period after the conclusion of the proceedings, were of limited weight. However, the Article 10 rights of the parents were strong.

In both cases the parents wished to discuss and publish details of their experiences and concerns in an area of general public controversy. The moral and ethical questions surrounding the treatment of children and adults in positions analogous to their children generated intense public debate. In such circumstances Article 10 rights were powerful indeed.

At the present stage, taking account only of the evidence before the judge touching the respective Convention rights of the various health service staff and parents, the parents' right to free speech decisively prevailed.

The judge had referred to public safety and protection of health in the context of the balancing exercise. However, no authority from the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg had been cited in argument to support the proposition that in Convention terms a right to freedom of expression could be curtailed because of the sort of systemic concerns identified in the evidence and submissions.

Those concerns were not really a matter of "public safety" in the sense described in Article 10.2. That term was linked in the article and in the case law of the Strasbourg court with interferences justified on grounds of national security, territorial integrity and the prevention of disorder and crime. The core concerns advanced before the judge were that naming health care professionals might undermine morale, make it more difficult to recruit into the relevant specialty and increase pressure on staff and hospitals.

The court was aware of no Strasbourg case which had come close to allowing concerns about morale, recruitment or general wellbeing of health staff to provide a justification for curtailing the right to free expression about individual experiences whilst being cared for, or on matters of general public interest.

It would be a strong thing for public debate to be curtailed in those circumstances and, in line with established domestic authority, the domestic courts should not run ahead of Strasbourg in finding a principle in the Convention which had not emerged in Strasbourg.

It was clear that the Article 10 rights of the parents in wishing to "tell their story" outweighed such Article 8 rights of clinicians and staff as might still be in play, long after the RROs had been made in the respective end-of-life proceedings.

The wider systemic concerns which affected the operation of the NHS laid before the court by representative bodies could not justify the creation of a practice, not anchored to the specific circumstances of the case, of granting indefinite anonymity to those involved in end-of-life proceedings. Such a step was one that was controversial and intensely political and suitable for parliament rather than the courts.

In the result the appeals had to be allowed and the two RROs under consideration discharged. The order discharging the RROs would be stayed pending the court's resolution of any application for permission to appeal, or further order.

Solicitors: **Andrew Storch Solicitors**, Reading; **Sintons Law**, Newcastle upon Tyne; **Hill Dickinson Solicitors**; **Solicitor, Royal College of Nursing**; **Solicitor, British Medical Association**; **Bevan Brittan; DAC Beachcroft**.

The perfect gift for new parents



'He'll be shouting for Ireland in the rugby but England in the cricket'

CILLIAN FRANCIS DUNKLEY WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 19, 2022, AT PETERBOROUGH CITY HOSPITAL IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE TO KATE WALSH AND JAMIE DUNKLEY

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THE TIMES

Court Circular

Kensington Palace
14th May, 2023
The Prince of Wales, President, the Football Association, this afternoon attended the Women's Cup Final between Chelsea Football Club and Manchester United Football Club at Wembley Stadium, Middlesex.

St James's Palace
14th May, 2023
The Duke of Kent, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys), this morning took the salute at the Annual Parade of the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades in Hyde Park, London W2.

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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HEAR, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: and thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. Deuteronomy 6.4-5 (AV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

IRVINE-FORTESCUE on 27th April 2023 to Rosanna (née Whittaker) and James, a son, George Maximilian, brother to Lilianna and Zara.

Marriages

MR T. J. P. HOWARD AND MRS G. D. HOWARD (NÉE PIDDOCK)
The marriage took place on 14th May 2023 in Warlingham, Surrey, between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs Graham Howard of Edlesborough, Bedfordshire, and Grace, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Piddock of Bickley, Kent.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

To place notices for these sections please call 020 7481 4000

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion

Deaths

FRY
Melanie Jane (née Gaskell) died peacefully on 28th April 2023, aged 78, after a long battle with cancer. Much-loved wife of Richard, mother of Dominic and Henry and grandmother to seven grandchildren. Cremation service to be held at West Wiltshire Crematorium on Thursday 18th May 2023 at 11.45am. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Diabetes UK or Dorothy House Hospice Care.

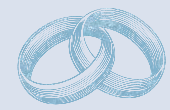
WILLIAMS
Paul K on 9th April in perfect peace, aged 87 and a half years. Beloved husband of Vivian and devoted father of Gary, Georgina, Spencer, Alexandra and Katherine. Will be missed by Dan and Katie and his eight grandchildren. Celebration of his life on 14th July 2023. All inquiries to his family.

In Memoriam - Private

TOMPKINS Richard CBE. With all our love on your birthday and always. Time passes, love remains. Liz and Vicky.

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Legal Notices

CR-2023-001269
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
COMPANIES COURT (ChD)
IN THE MATTER OF GRESHAM HOUSE RENEWABLE ENERGY VCT 1 PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Notice is hereby given that a Part 8 Claim Form was, on 28 April 2023, issued by the above-named company (company number 07378392 with its registered office at The Scalpel, 18th Floor, 52 Lime Street, London, EC3M 7AF) (the Company) at the High Court of Justice seeking an order confirming the cancellation of the amounts standing to the credit of the Company's share premium account and capital redemption reserve (the Cancellations).

Notice is further given that the final hearing of the claim as set out in the Part 8 Claim Form is directed to be heard before an Insolvency and Companies Court Judge at The Rolls Building, 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1NL on 23 May 2023.

Any creditor or shareholder of the Company wishing to oppose the making of an order to confirm the Cancellations should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the Part 8 Claim Form may be obtained, on payment of the regulated charge, from the Company's solicitors: Walker Morris LLP, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 4DL (ref: KIW/ GRE02887.1)
Dated: 15th May 2023

Notice of Intended Distribution to Creditors
BLUE FINCO LIMITED
(in Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
(Company Number 08865626)
Registered office: 1 More London Place, London, SE1 2AF
Principal trading address: Sixth Floor, 100 Liverpool Street, London, England, EC2M 2AT

As Joint Liquidators of the company, we hereby give notice that we intend to make a final distribution to its creditors. The last date for proving is 12 June 2023 and creditors of the company should by that date send their full names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to me, Derek Neil Hyslop of Ernst & Young LLP, Atria One, 144 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EX.

In accordance with Rule 14.38(1)(c) of the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016, we may thereafter make the proposed distribution without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not yet proved.

Joint Liquidators: Derek Neil Hyslop (IP number 9970) and Richard Barker (IP number 17150) of Ernst & Young LLP, Atria One, 144 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EX and 1 More London Place, London, SE1 2AF respectively. Date of Appointment: 01 May 2023.

For further details contact Mark Chapman on +44 (0)113 298 2602.

Dated: 9 May 2023
Derek Neil Hyslop, *Joint Liquidator*

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

To place notices for these sections please call: 020 7481 4000
or email: supportservices@news.co.uk

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion.

Legal Notices

CR-2023-000233
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
COMPANIES COURT (ChD)
IN THE MATTER OF AVIVA PLC
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Part 8 Claim Form was issued on 5 May 2023 at His Majesty's High Court of Justice (Business and Property Courts of England and Wales, Companies Court (ChD)) for the confirmation of the reduction of the share premium account and of the capital redemption reserve of Aviva plc (the "Company").

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Part 8 Claim Form is directed to be heard before an Insolvency and Companies Court Judge at the Rolls Building, 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1NL on 23 May 2023.

AND any creditor or shareholder of the Company who wishes to oppose the making of an order for the confirmation of the reduction of capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the Part 8 Claim Form will be provided to any such person requiring the same by the Company's solicitors.

Dated the 15th day of May 2023.
Slaughter and May of One Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YY, +44 (0)20 7600 1200 (Ref: 217984/13284 CLXJ/DAS).
Solicitors for the Company.

CR-2023-001271
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
COMPANIES COURT (ChD)
IN THE MATTER OF GRESHAM HOUSE RENEWABLE ENERGY VCT 2 PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

Notice is hereby given that a Part 8 Claim Form was, on 28 April 2023, issued by the above-named company (company number 07378395 with its registered office at The Scalpel, 18th Floor, 52 Lime Street, London, EC3M 7AF) (the Company) at the High Court of Justice seeking an order confirming the cancellation of the amounts standing to the credit of the Company's share premium account and capital redemption reserve (the Cancellations).

Notice is further given that the final hearing of the claim as set out in the Part 8 Claim Form is directed to be heard before an Insolvency and Companies Court Judge at The Rolls Building, 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1NL on 23 May 2023.

Any creditor or shareholder of the Company wishing to oppose the making of an order to confirm the Cancellations should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the Part 8 Claim Form may be obtained, on payment of the regulated charge, from the Company's solicitors: Walker Morris LLP, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 4DL (ref: KIW/ GRE02888.1)
Dated: 15th May 2023

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OTHER DATES ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST – PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS

Day 1 **Fly from London to Amsterdam, Netherlands>**
Upon arrival, transfer to your 5★ *luxury river ship* for your 14 night all-inclusive river cruise (D)

Day 2 **Amsterdam, Netherlands**
Embark on a canal cruise and admire the city from a glass-top boat. Or, visit Zaanse Schans, a lovely village famous for its traditional Dutch houses. Tonight, enjoy a Gala welcome dinner (B, L, D)

Day 3 **Andernach – Koblenz, Germany**
★**Signature Experience:** On a visit to Namedy Castle wander around the rooms and grounds, then enjoy a cocktail party in the ballroom. This morning will be spent cruising through Germany. Disembark in Andernach and enjoy a Signature Experience here. In Koblenz this evening, perhaps join your cruise director for an evening stroll (B, L, D)

Day 4 **Koblenz – Rudesheim, Germany**

Day 5 **Miltenberg, Germany**
Step ashore in Miltenberg today and set out on a guided exploration. Wander through cobblestone streets and admire the town's enchanting half-timbered houses before time at leisure to explore on your own (B, L, D)

Day 6 **Wurzburg, Germany**
Today, stroll through this fascinating city to the Wurzburg Residence. Alternatively, embark on a journey along the Romantic Road to Rothenburg for a tour or visit a family-owned farm where you'll enjoy a tour and morning tea (B, L, D)

Day 7 **Bamberg, Germany**
Sail to Bamberg, where you'll join a guided exploration with a local expert (B, L, D)

Day 8 **Nuremberg, Germany**
A historic tour takes you to a selection of WWII sites, including the Reich Party Rally Grounds. Alternatively, join a guided walk through the Schwarzach Valley (B, L, D)

Day 9 **Regensburg, Germany**
In Regensburg, explore its atmospheric World Heritage-listed city centre or perhaps get active and take a guided bike ride to the Walhalla memorial (B, L, D)

Day 10 **Passau, Germany – Linz, Austria**
Disembark in Linz and travel to Salzburg, where a city tour takes you to several sights from Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic film, The Sound of Music. Alternatively, embark on a full-day journey to Český Krumlov, Czech Republic

Day 11 **Melk – Dürnstein, Austria**
Ride a bike along the banks of the Danube River from Dürnstein to Melk, or rejoin your ship and cruise to Melk instead. Then choose to enjoy a guided tour of Melk Abbey (B, L, D)

Day 12 **Vienna, Austria**
★**Signature Experience:** After dinner, head to the princely family of Liechtenstein's City Palace in the heart of Vienna, where we have arranged an exclusive cocktail party and private recital, just for you. A full orchestra will perform classical masterpieces by Mozart and Strauss. You will also be enchanted by an operatic recital and a performance by some members of the Mozart Boys' Choir (B, L, D)

Day 13 **Budapest, Hungary**
Arrive in Budapest this afternoon and spend time exploring at your leisure. Take in its historic sites including Fisherman's Bastion and Heroe' Square

Day 14 **Budapest, Hungary**
★**Signature Experience:** Follow in the footsteps of the Habsburg Empire as you board the Grand Empress steam train, bound for Godollo. See inside some of the ornately adorned carriages from the early 1900s and be treated like royalty as you savour lunch on board. On arrival at Gondollo Railway Station, see the Royal Waiting Room – a rather fitting way to end this opulent journey. Later, return to your ship. Train operates on all departures between April and September (B, L, D)

Day 15 **Budapest, Hungary**
After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your fight to **London**> (B)

Meals are included as stated: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner. Itinerary is based 2nd August 2023 departure and may operate in reverse on selected dates

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Panoramic Balcony	C	~~£6,995~~	£2,989
Twin Balcony Suite	T	– SOLD OUT –	
Balcony Suite	P	~~£7,895~~	£3,889
Royal Suite	RS	– SOLD OUT –	

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT - fares available from **£1,989**

Fares and availability are based 2nd August 2023 departure

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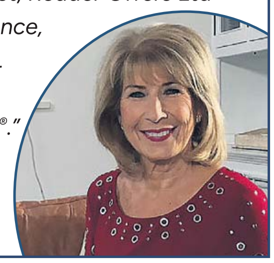
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No single supplement is available on selected dates only. Fares are per person based on two adults sharing a suite, except single suites, may increase or be withdrawn at any time. Offer applies to new bookings only. >Will incur supplementary costs and may require an additional overnight stay. ±Savings are based on two adults sharing the lead in grade. 5★ relates to the cruise element only. ++Subject to the cruise line's T&Cs. ×Tours are subject to change. Please note, itinerary is subject to change due to water levels or other uncontrollable factors. +Pimm's Gift Set is based on one per booking, for UK mainland addresses only. ††Cruise Miles® T&Cs apply. APT T&C's apply. E&OE.

Today Sunny spells and a few scattered showers, mainly in the north and east. Max 16C (61F), min 0C (32F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C		Rain mm	Sun hr*
	midday yesterday		24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	
Aberdeen	16	R	1.4	0.6
Aberporth	14	C	0.0	1.3
Anglesey	13	R	0.2	**
Aviemore	12	D	1.4	3.0
Barnstaple	13	C	0.0	**
Bedford	13	M	0.0	**
Belfast	11	R	3.8	3.4
Birmingham	17	S	0.2	**
Bournemouth	18	S	0.0	4.1
Bridlington	15	S	0.0	**
Bristol	14	PC	0.0	1.6
Camborne	14	R	0.0	1.8
Cardiff	11	C	0.0	1.0
Edinburgh	15	R	0.0	2.9
Eskdalemuir	**	**	**	1.4
Glasgow	12	D	0.0	1.0
Hereford	18	S	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	14	M	0.0	1.0
Ipswich	10	C	0.0	0.6
Isle of Man	11	C	0.4	3.1
Isle of Wight	13	M	0.0	**
Jersey	13	R	0.2	1.4
Keswick	**	**	**	**
Kinloss	10	C	3.6	1.2
Leeds	17	S	0.0	**
Lerwick	8	C	1.4	0.0
Leuchars	15	R	0.0	0.0
Lincoln	15	S	0.0	0.0
Liverpool	16	C	0.0	**
London	14	S	0.0	0.0
Lyneham	12	C	0.0	2.0
Manchester	18	PC	0.0	1.9
Margate	12	C	0.0	3.5
Milford Haven	13	C	0.2	**
Newcastle	17	PC	0.0	**
Nottingham	15	PC	0.0	2.5
Orkney	9	C	3.8	0.2
Oxford	16	S	0.0	**
Plymouth	17	S	0.0	**
Portland	11	R	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	14	PC	0.0	**
Shoreham	16	S	0.0	5.7
Shrewsbury	17	S	0.0	3.4
Snowdonia	12	PC	0.0	**
Southend	10	D	0.0	1.4
South Uist	12	S	12.0	**
Stornoway	11	PC	4.8	1.0
Tiree	12	PC	5.0	0.4
Whitehaven	13	PC	0.0	0.5
Wick	9	D	6.2	**
Yeovilton	15	B	0.0	0.5

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	23	B	Madeira	21	PC
Amsterdam	20	PC	Madrid	17	B
Athens	21	S	Malaga	23	PC
Auckland	16	B	Mallorca	20	SH
Bahrain	34	S	Malta	21	S
Bangkok	35	PC	Melbourne	18	PC
Barbados	30	PC	Mexico City	26	B
Barcelona	18	PC	Miami	29	PC
Beijing	26	S	Milan	19	PC
Beirut	**	**	Mombasa	31	PC
Belgrade	17	PC	Montreal	19	PC
Berlin	19	S	Moscow	16	S
Bermuda	23	SH	Mumbai	**	**
Bordeaux	21	PC	Munich	13	C
Brussels	17	PC	Nairobi	23	B
Bucharest	22	S	Naples	20	R
Budapest	13	R	New Orleans	31	PC
Buenos Aires	20	S	New York	26	C
Cairo	26	S	Nice	18	S
Calcutta	34	S	Nicosia	25	PC
Canberra	16	S	Oslo	20	S
Cape Town	19	S	Paris	12	B
Chicago	18	DU	Perth	20	B
Copenhagen	17	S	Prague	15	B
Corfu	22	PC	Reykjavik	8	PC
Delhi	37	S	Riga	22	S
Dubai	39	S	Rio de Janeiro	23	B
Dublin	12	R	Riyadh	36	S
Faro	22	S	Rome	19	PC
Florence	15	R	San Francisco	21	S
Frankfurt	18	PC	Santiago	24	S
Geneva	18	PC	São Paulo	17	B
Gibraltar	22	PC	Seoul	20	S
Helsinki	21	S	Seychelles	30	SH
Hong Kong	21	R	Singapore	33	B
Honolulu	28	B	St Petersburg	20	PC
Istanbul	19	S	Stockholm	22	S
Jerusalem	25	S	Sydney	18	SH
Johannesburg	17	S	Tel Aviv	25	S
Kuala Lumpur	34	PC	Tenerife	24	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	21	B
Lanzarote	24	PC	Vancouver	21	PC
Las Palmas	24	PC	Venice	15	B
Lima	23	B	Vienna	11	R
Lisbon	24	PC	Warsaw	21	S
Los Angeles	18	B	Washington	21	C
Luxor	32	S	Zurich	14	B

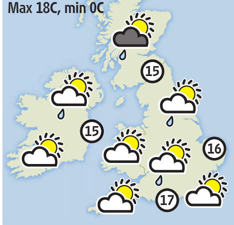
Five days ahead

Largely dry with variable cloud and bright or sunny spells, a few isolated showers

Tomorrow

Dry in many areas with bright or sunny spells, but areas of cloud will develop with a few showers possible, mainly in northern areas.

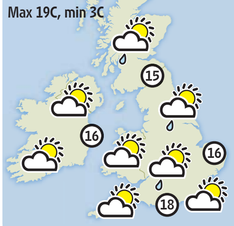
Max 18C, min 0C



Wednesday

Largely dry with sunny spells, but cloud will tend to bubble-up and fill in through the day, with a few isolated showers, mainly in the north and east.

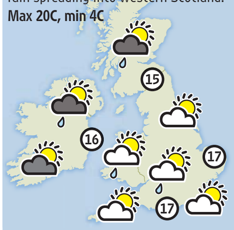
Max 19C, min 3C



Thursday

Another mainly dry day with bright or sunny spells and just a few isolated showers, the greater chance of some rain spreading into western Scotland.

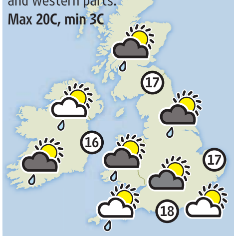
Max 20C, min 4C



Friday

Many areas likely dry with bright or sunny spells, but patchy rain or showers may affect some northern and western parts.

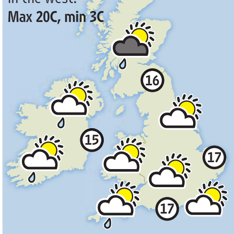
Max 20C, min 3C



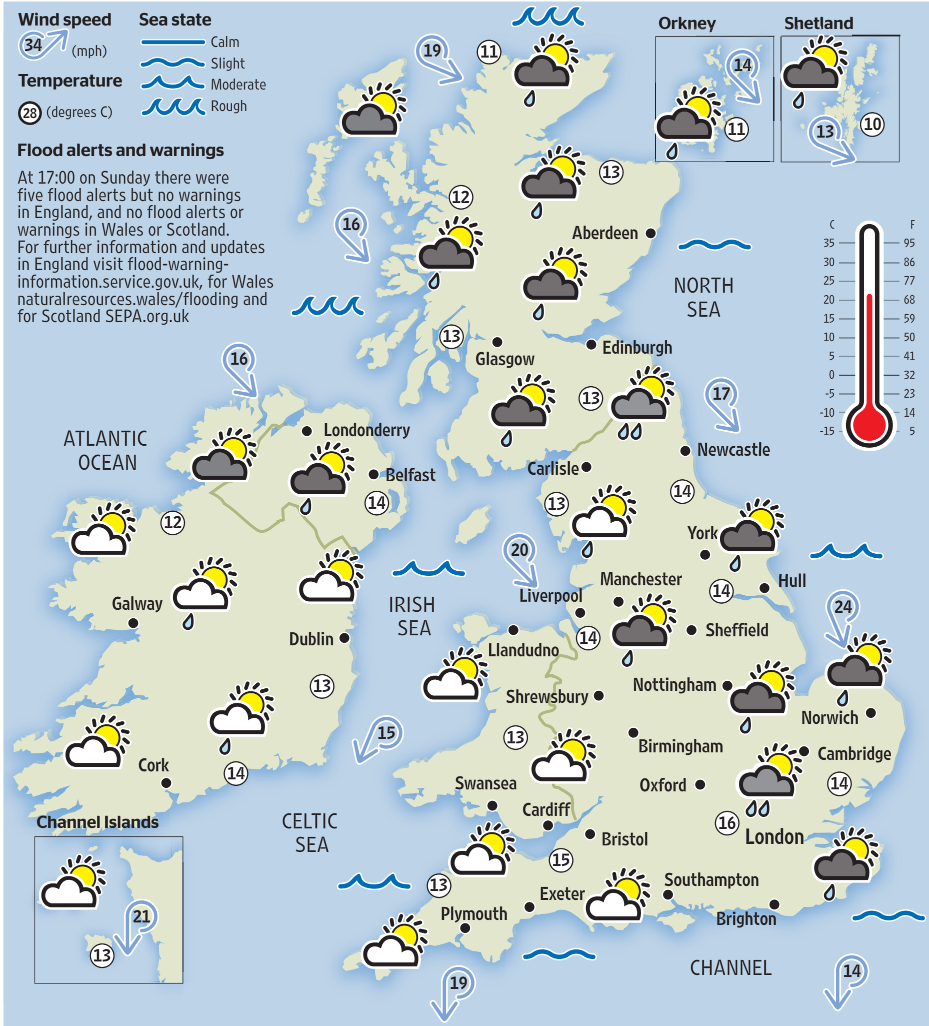
Saturday

Another mainly dry day with variable cloud and some sunny spells, the chance of a few showers, especially in the west.

Max 20C, min 3C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest



Flood alerts and warnings

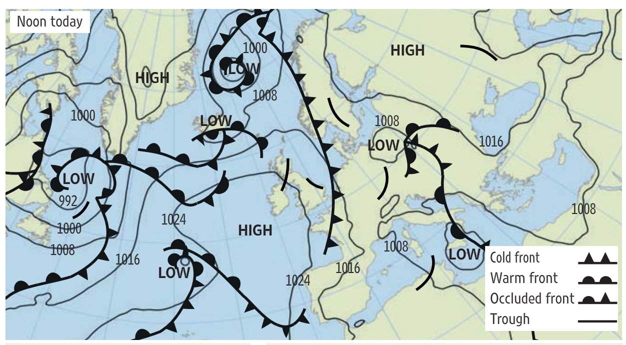
At 17:00 on Sunday there were five flood alerts but no warnings in England, and no flood alerts or warnings in Wales or Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

General situation: Sunny spells and a few scattered showers.
Cen S Eng, SW Eng, Channel Is, Wales: Early patchy rain over the Channel Islands, otherwise mainly dry with sunny spells, but areas of cloud may produce an isolated shower. Winds will be mostly moderate north to northwesterly. Maximum 16C (61F), minimum 0C (32F).
London, SE Eng, E Anglia, E Mids: Cloudy in parts of Lincolnshire, East Yorkshire and SE England at first with patchy rain, clearing to leave sunny spells and a few scattered heavy showers. Moderate to fresh northerly winds. Maximum 16C (61F), minimum 1C (34F).
Scotland: A mixture of sunny spells and a few scattered showers, heaviest and most widespread towards eastern areas. Light to moderate west or northwesterly winds. Maximum 15C (59F), minimum 1C (34F).
NW Eng, Cen N Eng, NE Eng, W Mids, IoM: Largely dry with areas of cloud and some sunny spells, the chance of a few isolated but locally heavy showers. Light to moderate north or northwesterly winds. Maximum 15C (59F), minimum 1C (34F).
N Ireland, Republic of Ireland: Most places will be dry with bright or sunny spells but sometimes large amounts of cloud, bringing the chance of a few isolated showers. Light to moderate west or northwesterly winds. Maximum 15C (59F), minimum 0C (32F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	10:45	3.7	23:43	3.8
Avonmouth	04:20	11.0	16:54	11.1
Belfast	08:25	3.2	21:09	3.1
Cardiff	04:07	10.4	16:42	10.4
Devonport	02:49	4.8	15:34	4.7
Dover	08:50	5.8	21:06	6.0
Dublin	08:55	3.8	21:49	3.6
Falmouth	02:20	4.4	15:05	4.3
Greenock	09:45	3.0	22:33	3.0
Harwich	09:03	3.6	21:18	3.5
Holyhead	07:39	5.0	20:31	4.9
Hull	03:47	6.3	15:40	6.6
Leith	11:59	4.9	--:--	--
Liverpool	08:24	8.3	21:09	8.2
London Bridge	11:03	6.4	23:32	6.3
Lowestoft	07:20	2.3	18:37	2.3
Milford Haven	03:22	6.0	16:00	5.9
Morecambe	08:37	8.2	21:22	8.1
Newhaven	08:30	5.7	21:01	6.0
Newquay	02:19	5.9	14:56	5.8
Oban	03:28	3.4	16:08	3.1
Penzance	01:51	4.8	14:32	4.7
Portsmouth	08:48	4.1	21:32	4.4
Shoreham	08:40	5.2	21:15	5.6
Southampton	07:37	3.8	20:22	4.1
Swansea	03:29	8.0	16:05	8.0
Tees	--:--	--	13:03	4.9
Weymouth	03:49	1.6	16:30	1.6



Synoptic situation

A cold front and associated patchy rain will clear southeast England and the Channel Islands during the morning, to leave many areas with sunny spells as high pressure over the Atlantic extends gradually eastwards. However, a few scattered showers will develop, particularly in northern and eastern areas enhanced by a couple of troughs in the flow.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Astwood Bank, Warwickshire, 20.5C
Coldest: Redesdale Camp, Northumberland, 1.2C
Wettest: South Uist, 12.0mm
Sunniest: Altnaharra, 6.1hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 05.08
Sun sets: 20.44
Moon rises: 03.45
Moon sets: 15.40
New moon: May 19

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	21:50-04:17
Belfast	21:52-04:46
Birmingham	21:26-04:40
Cardiff	21:27-04:49
Exeter	21:25-04:54
Glasgow	21:51-04:33
Liverpool	21:34-04:40
London	21:15-04:37
Manchester	21:31-04:37
Newcastle	21:36-04:27
Norwich	21:14-04:26
Penzance	21:31-05:04
Sheffield	21:28-04:34

Weather Eye
Paul Simons



Bangladesh and Myanmar were battered yesterday by Cyclone Mocha, a large and dangerous storm. The diameter of the cyclone exceeded 500km, with its winds gusting up to 210km/h (130mph), and heavy rain leading to flooding and storm surges, estimated to be as high as 3.5m (11.5ft).

Mocha was spawned in the Bay of Bengal, one of the most dangerous cyclone regions of the tropics. The bay is funnel-shaped and shallow, helping to squeeze storm surges to great heights along the low-lying coastlines, including Sittwe in Myanmar, a city near to huge Rohingya refugee camps.

Tropical cyclones feed off warm seas, and the ocean waters in the Bay of Bengal have experienced unusually high temperatures of about 30 to 31C recently. The effect has been stoked by a heatwave that has produced extreme highs in southeast Asia this month. In Laos, a new record of 43.5C was set at Luang Prabang on May 7, with temperatures of 44.1C and 41.6C recorded at Udon in Thailand and Kratie in Cambodia respectively.

The period from late March to early May may have resulted in southeast Asia being exposed to the world's most extreme and long-lasting tropical heat wave on record.

Storm surges in the Bay of Bengal are especially devastating. The most recent disastrous surge was caused by Cyclone Nargis on Myanmar's densely populated Irrawaddy Delta on May 2, 2008. A storm surge of up to 5m in height penetrated up to 50km (31 miles) inland, and led to most of the cyclone's 138,366 death toll, causing $5.6 billion in damage.

Since the devastation of Nargis, the region has improved its cyclone protection. The improvements build upon those made since 1970, when a catastrophic cyclone struck what was then East Pakistan. About half a million people were estimated to have been killed, with some 10 million survivors left destitute. The disaster contributed to war between East and West Pakistan, with East Pakistan later becoming Bangladesh after gaining independence.

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Sport

The surprise champion who rescued couple from drowning

Shaun Micheel, the shock US PGA winner 20 years ago, tells **Rick Broadbent** about being called a 'one-hit wonder' and a hero



You play one of the great shots. You win a major. The phone goes the next day as you do your laundry. "This is Paul Stanley from Kiss." You party with greasepaint rockers and you get your back slapped black and blue. And then slowly the crowd disperses, you struggle for oxygen in the thin air at the summit and you get damned as a one-hit wonder. Now, as he returns to the scene of his double-edged triumph, Shaun Micheel has found the perfect line for such naysaying. "I guess I wrote a pretty cool song."

Twenty years ago Micheel won the US PGA Championship. His wife, Stephanie, was six months pregnant and he was the world No 169. It was one of those deliciously unexpected triumphs, a thumbed nose to expectation and the cult of celebrity. The seven-iron on the last was a 72-hole tournament distilled to one gilded arrow. The success came in only his third major appearance and it was his first PGA Tour win. It was also his last.

Sport has a blinkered obsession with success, but for anyone labouring under the misconception that winning is everything, Micheel's before and after are remarkable stories, comprising heroism, trauma and a Wendy's cheeseburger.

"I enjoyed playing in relative anonymity," he says as the PGA Championship goes back to Oak Hill in Rochester, New York, with Micheel, 54, in the field as a past champion. "Then the scrutiny started and I did not handle it very well. I felt like I was being judged. I felt like a fish in a goldfish bowl and I could not escape it.

"I always kind of struggled in front of all those people anyway. I think that's why I did not play well earlier in my career when I had my Tour card: I was always worried about looking like a fool on the course, topping one or shanking one or hitting someone in the crowd. My career was hampered by those things."

This will resonate with any Sunday hacker but nobody flukes a major. You can win a football match with a shot that ricochets off your rear end in a goalmouth mêlée, but a major is a four-day test of mind and body. It was hard for Micheel because his pregnant wife was so uncomfortable in the August heat.

"One night we drove around looking for a pharmacy," he says. "As much as I was focused on golf I was more focused on her doing well, carrying our son. I remember the Sunday morning. Oh, that went on for ever. We were in family dining before my round and I didn't feel well. I was nervous, agitated, amped out. I went to the second-floor locker room and found a well-wishing note pinned to it from [US golfer] Loren Roberts. I still have it, it's one of my most prized possessions."

He started his duel with Chad Campbell with a fine drive on a difficult hole, and when he birdied the 14th he had a three-stroke lead. "That was the first time I thought I could win," he says. The margin was down to one after the 15th. "And that changed my mentality pretty quickly. It was a schizophrenic last few holes." He was a shot ahead going down the last and then played the signature stroke that enabled the engraver to get to work. "It was the perfect distance for the way I played," he says. "Deep breath and I swung. It was a magical moment." He kissed Stephanie's bump and it was late by the time they got away. The organisers offered them a limousine ride to their room at the downtown Hyatt.

"Stephanie was starving and I noticed a Wendy's on the side of East Road. I asked the driver if he could pull over. That was our Champion's Dinner, a drive-thru cheeseburger."

US PGA Championship
Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester
Starts Thursday
TV: Sky Sports Golf & Main Event, 1pm

It is not as though Micheel returned to "relative anonymity" in a flash. He was runner-up to Tiger Woods at the PGA Championship in 2006 and a month later famously ended Woods's four-tournament winning streak, crushing him 4&3 at the World Match Play Championship. He made it to No 34 in the world, had a decent 2004, and then…

"Maybe winning a major hurt my career," he says. "It was my third major appearance and the process of becoming a good player and major winner just wasn't there. There was no building. Low and behold I had four great days in Rochester, and I struggled to upstage the way I won. I was a good player, not a great one, and [because] there are so many Hall of Famers with their name on the trophy I overdid the work in my quest to validate my name. I felt I wanted to be the equal of them so I started showing up with a video camera and different training aids.



"In the beginning the 'one-hit wonder' thing hurt me. I could not understand why top journalists would persecute someone for winning a golf tournament. It's not like I go around saying. 'I hit the greatest shot ever.' I just wanted to play golf, but the trophy hung over me wherever I went."

Micheel had other considerations. With his wife and new baby on the road, he was changing nappies and his routine. He was "overwhelmed" by bad days and felt chronically fatigued, irritable and depressed. Finally, his wife made him go to the doctor and he was eventually told he had the testosterone level of a 70-year-old man. He was prescribed a testosterone gel but that meant a lot of hoop-jumping to convince Tour chiefs that he was not trying to gain an illegal performance boost.

He says the battle for a therapeutic use exemption almost pushed him over the edge. "I kept playing but my shoulder was making noises." He had surgery. "Then my mom got diagnosed with lung cancer and she passed away on October 21, 2010. I wallowed around for a while." In 2014 doctors found one of his arteries was 99 per cent blocked and he had four stents inserted. "Life happens."

That message had been delivered in dramatic fashion ten years before his major victory. Micheel was playing at a mini-tour event in North Carolina when he witnessed a car driving straight into the Neuse river. An elderly couple were trapped inside the vehicle which floated 100 feet before sinking. Without stopping to think, Micheel stripped to his boxer shorts and dived in. The terrified man refused to get out of the car and Micheel remembers being angry at him for that, but when the windscreen caved in under pressure, he managed to pull the couple clear, and carried them to the shallows.

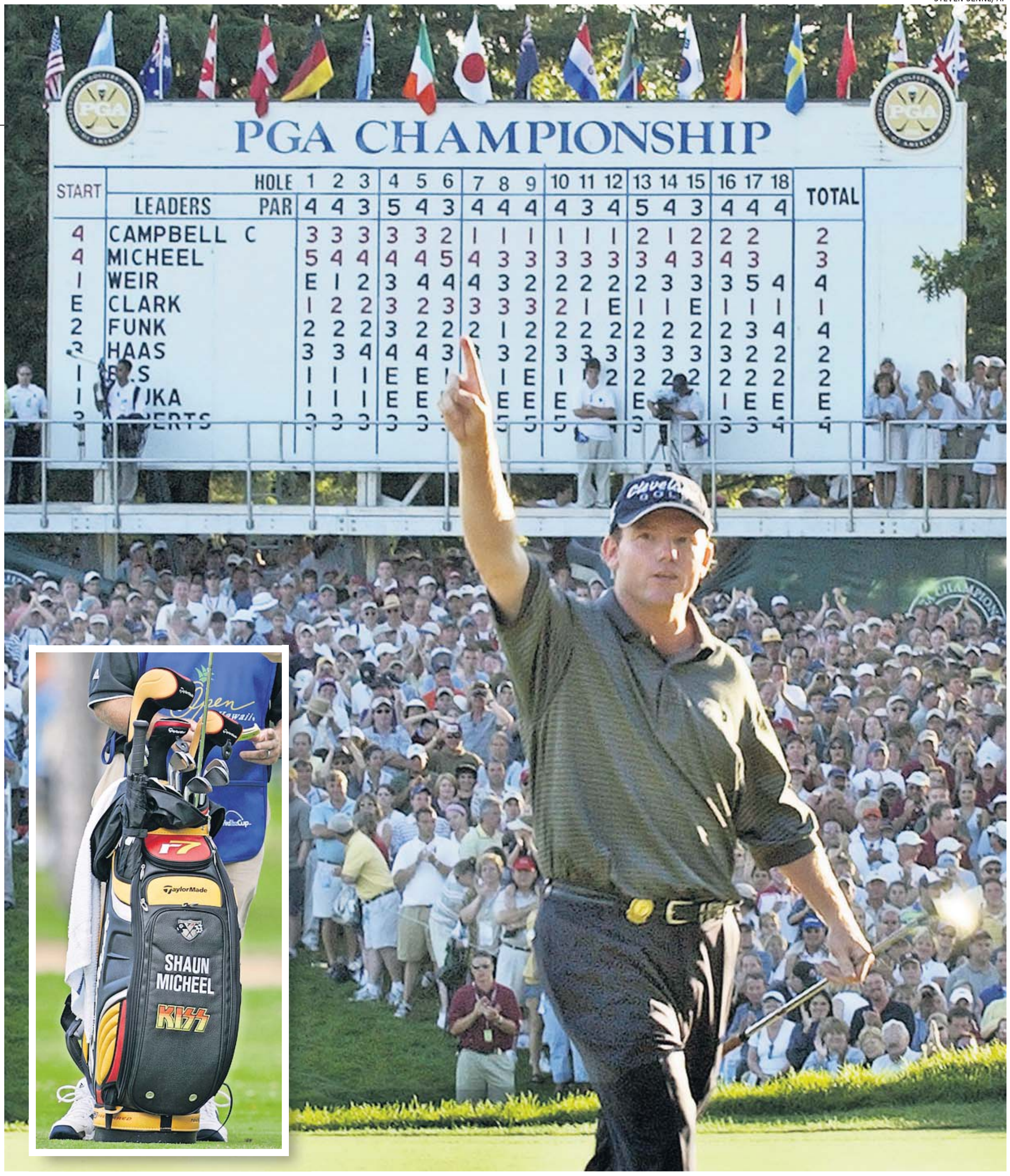
"It happened so fast, it was surreal," he says. "It was like I was drawn to the river. I didn't have a choice." The police and TV crews arrived and he was asked the question he would also consider a decade later: "What's it feel like to be a hero?"

Good and bad was the answer, but there were lots of pluses. As a golf star, however fleeting, he got to host a Make A Wish charity tournament in his native Memphis, played in the other majors and got to know Kiss. "We hit it off. Tommy Thayer [guitarist] loves golf and we've been friends ever since 2003. I've been a Kiss fan since I was eight and was interested in the process of how they made music. They're fun to be around. They've been open about some of the things they have faced."

He still plays and coaches, but does not have an exemption for the PGA Tour Champions. One of his regrets is not seeing a psychologist after he won the PGA Championship. He knows there are tournaments that got away, but he also knows what matters. "I'm so happy to share this 20 years on with my family," he says. "I'm fine with it."

On Saturday, after all the bumps and bruises, he played Oak Hill with his son, Dade, now 19, and showed him the family Wendy's.

STEVEN SENNE/AP



Micheel, who had Kiss on his bag during his career, celebrates on the 18th green at Oak Hill after winning the 2003 US PGA

2002-2005 – the era of shock major winners

Rich Beem *US PGA 2002*
Beem, now a TV commentator, won after denying Tiger Woods at Hazeltine. He never won again and admitted the huge pay cheque softened his will to win.

Ben Curtis *The Open 2003*
Thomas Bjorn had one hand on the Claret Jug before a bunker nightmare on the 16th at Sandwich. Curtis, a 300-1 shot, took advantage in his first major. Was also runner-up at the PGA in 2008.

Todd Hamilton *The Open 2004*
Hamilton won after a four-hole play-off with Ernie Els at Royal Troon. A close friend of Micheel, he was PGA Tour's rookie of the year in 2004, but would have only one more top-20 finish at the majors.

Michael Campbell *US Open 2005*
Later dubbed the most underwhelming US Open winner of them all by Golf Digest, Campbell fended off Woods at Pinehurst. "You always get guys who try to chop you down," the New Zealander said. He won the World Match Play that year too and was fifth and sixth at the Open and US PGA in 2005 respectively, but never contended at the majors again.

Norrie aiming for third time lucky against Djokovic

Tennis
Stuart Fraser Tennis Correspondent

Cameron Norrie will bid for a first victory over Novak Djokovic at the third time of asking after reaching the last 16 of the Italian Open.

The British No1 survived a late fightback from Hungary's Marton Fucsovics to book a showdown with the world No 1 in Rome tomorrow. From a set and 5-1 up, he failed to convert six match points before finally completing the job in the second-set tie-break for a 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) win in two hours.

This is a welcome return to form before the French Open for Norrie, who has now won back-to-back matches for the first time since he reached the Indian Wells quarter-finals in March. Ranked No13 in the world, he has an opportunity in the coming weeks to re-enter the top ten after posting a career-high position of No8 in September.

Norrie, 27, will meet Djokovic for the first time on clay, having lost on grass in the Wimbledon semi-finals last year and on a hard court at the 2021 ATP Finals. Djokovic has previously described Norrie as a "great player" whom he has "a lot of respect" for.

While Norrie is clearly the underdog, encouragement could come from Djokovic's comments after his 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 win over Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov yesterday. The Serb experienced several bad bounces, one of which allowed Dimitrov to take the second set, and made clear his disappointment about the condition of the Centre Court afterwards. His match against Norrie will be contested in the same stadium.

"Rome never had a great reputation for the quality of the court," Djokovic, 35, said. "Look, it's part of the clay-court season, so we have to accept lots of uneven bounces. In Rome it has been happening quite a few years.

"I had a feeling from training on Court No5, that is better quality than Centre Court because they play on the court more. It's just that kind of surface that requires the court to be played on. Now there's really not much you can do. Hopefully as the days pass, the court will get better."

Concerns about Rafael Nadal's fitness continue to grow after he turned down the chance to return at this week's second-tier ATP Challenger event in Bordeaux. The 14-times French Open champion, 36, has not played a match since January because of a hip injury and is uncertain to make the start line at Roland Garros on May 28.

"I offered him [Carlos Costa, Nadal's agent] one of the wild cards," Jean-Baptiste Perlant, the Bordeaux tournament director, told L'Équipe. "He told me Nadal was not ready and was in a race against time to be ready for the French Open."

Andy Murray has signed up for the event and will receive a first-round bye as the second seed. In a strong field, he could open his campaign against his fellow three-times grand-slam champion Stan Wawrinka.



Britain's No1 is through to the last 16 in Rome



LUCA BETTINI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Thomas leads after Covid rules out Evenepoel

Geraint Thomas took over the lead of the Giro d'Italia after the favourite, Remco Evenepoel, was forced to abandon the race after testing positive for Covid.

"It is with a heavy heart that I have to announce that I will be leaving the Giro due to Covid-19 after taking a routine test, which unfortunately was positive," Evenepoel, who had regained the Maglia Rosa by winning yesterday's individual time trial, said in a statement.

Evenepoel had reclaimed the Pink Jersey from Andreas Leknessund, who fell back to sixth, beating Thomas, of Ineos Grenadiers, by a second in the 35km time-trial from Savignano sul Rubicone into Cesena. Tao Geoghegan Hart, 28, his team-mate, continuing to exhibit his best form since winning the Giro in 2020, was a further second back.

Evenepoel, 23, had lost two seconds to Thomas at the third intermediate time check and appeared to be wobbling, but recovered to edge the 36-year-old Welshman before revealing his test.

Thomas now leads the general classification by two seconds from Primoz Roglic, with Geoghegan Hart a further three seconds back.

Thomas lost the ninth-stage time-trial by a second to Evenepoel, inset, but the Belgian's withdrawal from the race has handed the Briton the overall lead

'I won World Cup gold with cancer'

Cox Erin Kennedy tells **Rick Broadbent** that 15 rounds of 'chemo' were not going to keep her out of the boat

Fifteen rounds sounds like the stuff of old-time heavyweight boxing but Erin Kennedy is talking about the chemotherapy she had in 150 days. When that was done, she started 2023 with a double mastectomy and reconstructive surgery. A year on from her diagnosis and a woman of extraordinary will is back in the boat.

Listening to her story, it sounds like she has been to hell and back, but she delivers it with a smile and buoyant pragmatism. The European Rowing Championships start in Slovenia on May 25, and Kennedy, 30, will be there as the coxswain for the GB Para Mix4+ boat that has not been beaten since 2010. It will be a year to the day that she had triple negative breast cancer diagnosed. Sport is routinely overhyped and is not a matter of life and death, but Kennedy says rowing has provided both a prop and goal.

"I got my diagnosis and, classic me, I jumped on a flight and went to compete at the World Cup," she says. "I left my poor husband at home breaking the news to everyone, but that set the tone for how I was going to tackle this: head on. I decided not to google anything because you're a click from death if you've got a cold, let alone being told you have cancer, and I thought, 'I will do what I do while I can,' because I didn't know what the next thing was. But I knew I wanted to keep competing."

Four days after her diagnosis she won a World Cup gold medal in Belgrade. "I approached the whole thing with an athlete's mindset of controlling the controllables," she says. "I tried to prioritise things so I could get the most out of my year. I tried not to feel sorry for myself."

Kennedy was Oxford's winning cox in the women's Boat Race in 2014, and trained on both the Olympic and Paralympic pathways — the cox can be non-disabled on both — before being selected for the Mix4+ boat.

Success came quickly, with two world titles followed by gold medals at the European Championships and the Paralympics in Tokyo. No cox had ever held those titles simultaneously, but she then found herself facing new challenges. "With the sort of cancer I had, the way to combat it is to absolutely batter it with chemotherapy," she says.

That started in July. "I had it every other week for two months and every week for three months," she says. "It did get me but I was lucky I did not have the sickness and nausea. Getting out made a difference, even if I was just dragging myself round the block. There was a lot of fatigue but when the treatment hit me in the first few days I tried to think it's just a blip in the long term."

Somehow she managed to make it to the European Championships in Munich in July. "It slotted luckily between chemos," she says. "There was a lot of collaboration between the team doctor and the oncologist to make sure everybody was happy. When I said I wanted to do the World Championships too [in September] they both said that we needed to manage expectations. That was the right thing to do. My role as coxswain is about building a team and a culture and what has been amazing is seeing them turn that around and push it back at me when I really needed it."

She talks of the fertility preservation injections, induced menopause, hair loss and "a new normal" which is the same phrase the three-times Olympic rowing champion Peter Reed used as he dealt with a spinal stroke in 2019. Perhaps the same thing that drives rare sporting success also provides the tools to face life-altering trauma. Kennedy finally accepted the team she had helped to build was bigger than one person and watched from afar as they won another world title.

Out of the boat from August to February, she needed a new layer of resilience to get through this year. "I made the decision early on that I would push for a double mastectomy even if it was not what the doctors were saying," she says. "I had the BRCA gene [mutation, which increases cancer risk, especially breast and ovarian] so for me I thought I could have risk-reducing surgery as well as dealing with the cancer there.

"It's a very common joke to say a mastectomy is a free boob job. Well, actually it's an amputation. What got me most was not necessarily the physical change but the severity of the surgery. It's eight hours and the limitation in mobility afterwards was huge. I was pleased I could have that surgery but the other side is that it's something that will be with me for ever. I will never be able to breast feed my children, my whole look changed, how I dress, and the ability to do some activities — rugby is out. But it was an active step to never having to do this again."



Kennedy fitted events in between her treatment

Now she is back for the first time since her surgery. The team has just been announced and she is back with the crew of Frankie Allen, Giedre Rakauskaite, Ed Fuller and Morgan Fice-Noyes. "People say you must get bored of winning but no, it drives you on to push harder because you can't rest on your laurels," she says.

Kennedy is a polymath who describes herself as a gardener, baker, sewer, businesswoman and tutor, as well a history boffin who is writing a book about fascinating deaths. Her theory is that lots of famous people have met their demise on the way to places. She mentions the Viking warlord who died because of a gangrenous cut caused by teeth from a severed head attached to his saddle. "Never go anywhere," she quips — but that is clearly the opposite of her own ethos.

Her message is simple but vital: if you have a lump, don't leave it. "Early detection can save your life," she says. "And also don't lose yourself in your diagnosis. I think goalsetting and keeping your identity can help. You can still go and do things — and it doesn't matter if the goal is to go to for a walk in the park or to go to the European Championships."

Windsor

Rob Wright

5.35 Dream By Day
6.05 Rockit Tommy
6.35 Ardad's Great
7.05 Azure Angel
7.35 Graignes
8.05 Alba Longa
8.35 Sparks Fly

Going: soft
Sky Sports Racing
Draw: 5f-6f, low numbers best

5.35 Handicap (£4,397: 5f) (7 runners)

1	(5)	355-0 **FAUSTUS** 30 (P,D) R Cowell 5-9-11	**W Buick**
2	(4)	30013 **SARAH'S VERSE** 21 (CD) R Harris 6-9-9	**David Egan**
3	(2)	0-245 **HARB** 20 (D) P Crate 4-9-9	**S W Kelly**
4	(6)	30016 **LEVEL UP** 21 (T,D) P Evans 4-9-9	**C Shepherd**
5	(1)	202-6 **SILENT FLAME** 16 B Millman 5-9-9	**O Murphy**
6	(7)	150-5 **DREAM BY DAY** 21 (P,D) K P De Foy 4-9-6	**A Atzeni**
7	(3)	600-5 **WILEY POST** 124 (B,CD) A Carroll 10-8-13	**R Kingscote**

3-1 Sarah's Verse, 7-2 Harb, 5-1 Silent Flame, 6-1 Dream By Day, Level Up, 7-1 Faustus, 10-1 Wiley Post.

Rob Wright's choice: Dream By Day needed the run when fifth here on his reappearance **Danger** Faustus

6.05 Novice Stakes (£4,320: 1m 2f) (7)

1	(4)	4/4 **SCOTCH MIST** 30 J Feilden 4-9-11	**Dylan Hogan**
2	(3)	1 **ROCKIT TOMMY** 27 (D) Sir M Todd 3-9-6	**G Rooke**
3	(6)	-6442 **CROSSTITCH** 18 (P) J Candlish 3-9-1	**L Edmunds**
4	(5)	0-0 **ISLAND KING** 24 H Main 3-9-1	**Gina Mangan (3)**
5	(2)	240 **BISCOFF JOE** 87 (H) G Kelleway 3-8-13	**O Murphy**
6	(7)	**POURQUOI** (H) D M Simcock 3-8-10	**H Turner**
7	(1)	5 **THAWG** 13 M Botti 3-8-10	**A Atzeni**

2-1 Rockit Tommy, 4-1 Crosstitch, 9-2 Scotch Mist, 5-1 Pourquoi, 6-1 Thawg, 12-1 Biscoff Joe, 25-1 Island King.

Wright choice: Rockit Tommy made a winning start at Lingfield; he should handle softer ground **Danger** Pourquoi

6.35 Novice Stakes (£15,462: 6f) (6)

1	(6)	/303- **ULTRAMARINE** 255 J Butler 4-10-0	**O Murphy**
2	(4)	01- **HYDRATION** 222 H & R Charlton 3-9-10	**R Kingscote**
3	(2)	**MAGIC MEMORIES** G L Moore 3-9-4	**R Clutterbuck**
4	(5)	-2332 **SNUGGLE** 11 E Walker 3-9-4	**T Marquand**
5	(3)	6226- **ARDAD'S GREAT** 200 J Osborne 3-8-13	**S Osborne**
6	(1)	0-0 **SINFUL** 17 H Candy 3-8-13	**G Rooke**

2-1 Ardad's Great, 9-4 Snuggle, 3-1 Hydration, 5-1 Ultramarine, 25-1 Magic Memories, 33-1 Sinful.

Wright choice: Ardad's Great, placed in listed company in Ireland, can win on his British debut **Danger** Hydration

7.05 Handicap (£9,936: 6f) (8)

1	(8)	3164- **RAZEYNA** 233 (D) W Haggas 4-10-1	**T Marquand**
2	(5)	-0500 **CUBAN BREEZE** 24 (V,CD) P Evans 5-9-13	**C Shepherd**
3	(6)	405-0 **CRAZY LUCK** 24 (BF,D) B Millman 5-9-11	**O Murphy**
4	(7)	406-0 **IMMORTAL BEAUTY** 25 (D) R Hannon 3-9-9	**P Dobbs**
5	(3)	25-00 **TRUE JEM** 16 (V,D) K R Burke 4-9-8	**R Kingscote**
6	(4)	311- **AZURE ANGEL** 168 (D) R Varian 3-9-7	**David Egan**
7	(2)	26241 **MISS BELLA BRAND** 16 (D) Mrs I G-Leveque 5-9-4	**B Sayette (3)**
8	(1)	4-134 **PRENUP** 2 J Chapple-Hyam 4-9-2	**Doubtful**

11-8 Azure Angel, 9-4 Razeyna, 13-2 Miss Bella Brand, 15-2 Crazy Luck, 14-1 Cuban Breeze, 20-1 True Jem, Immortal Beauty.

Wright choice: Azure Angel made good progress last autumn; unexposed **Dangers** Miss Bella Brand, Crazy Luck

7.35 Handicap (£5,653: 1m 2f) (9)

1	(4)	/055- **GRAIGNES** 289 (W,T,D) G Baker 7-9-9	**A Atzeni**
2	(6)	65-04 **BRUNO'S GOLD** 28 (D) B Johnson 4-9-9	**C Shepherd**
3	(3)	11-04 **RICHARD P SMITH** 14 (P,C,D) E Dunlop 4-9-8	**W Buick**
4	(2)	55-40 **THE CONQUEROR** 20 (D) J Boyle 5-9-8	**M Tabti (7)**
5	(5)	5322- **SNAPCRACKLEPOP** 152 (P,C) W Muir & C Grassick 4-9-7	**L Edmunds**
6	(9)	0-120 **DIFFIDENT SPIRIT** 12 T Kent 5-9-7	**T Marquand**
7	(8)	0/33 **UMAX** 18 A King 4-9-7	**O Murphy**
8	(7)	0124- **JUNKANOO** 150 (V,D) G L Moore 6-9-6	**R Clutterbuck**
9	(1)	-6014 **LAWN RANGER** 21 (BF,CD) M Attwater 8-8-13	**W Carson**

7-2 Snapcracklepop, 5-1 Bruno's Gold, 6-1 Lawn Ranger, Graignes, 7-1 Umax, Diffident Spirit, 8-1 Junkanoo, 12-1 The Conqueror, Richard P Smith.

Wright choice: Graignes has had a breathing operation since last season **Dangers** Snapcracklepop, Umax

8.05 Handicap (£4,397: 1m 3f) (7)

1	(2)	6540- **CREMA INGLESA** 184 (H) J Osborne 5-10-2	**S Osborne**
2	(7)	44-34 **RECHERCHER** 27 (P) G Baker 4-9-10	**A Atzeni**
3	(6)	11-44 **MRS MEADER** 21 (BF) J Feilden 7-9-9	**Dylan Hogan**
4	(3)	05102 **KINGSTON JOY** 13 D M Simcock 4-9-1	**H Turner**
5	(4)	063- **ALBA LONGA** 206 R Beckett 3-8-13	**H Crouch**
6	(1)	432-2 **SYDNEY MEWS** 21 A Balding 3-8-9	**O Murphy**
7	(5)	30-24 **PEACEFUL NIGHT** 30 Charlie Johnston 3-8-6	**A Breslin (3)**

9-4 Alba Longa, 7-2 Kingston Joy, 4-1 Sydney Mews, 6-1 Rechercher, 8-1 Peaceful Night, 10-1 Crema Inglesa, 12-1 Mrs Meader.

Wright choice: Alba Longa is likely to improve for a step up in trip on his handicap debut **Danger** Rechercher

8.35 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,397: 1m) (7)

1	(3)	53111 **SPARKS FLY** 4 (CD) D Loughnane 10-2(6ex)	**Laura Pearson (3)**
2	(7)	321- **LADY OF ARABIA** 152 (D) E J-Houghton 9-11	**C Bishop**
3	(2)	05-63 **VALKYRIAN** 20 J Osborne 9-11	**S Osborne**
4	(1)	0-413 **NATIVE BEACH** 20 Sir M Todd 9-9	**G Rooke**
5	(4)	40-4 **FITZ PERFECTLY** 25 C Fellowes 9-8	**C Shepherd**
6	(5)	054- **EXERTIVE** 318 C Hills 9-5	**W Buick**
7	(6)	06-00 **WINNARETTA** 24 (H) A Balding 8-12	**O Murphy**

11-8 Sparks Fly, 3-1 Lady Of Arabia, 7-1 Native Beach, 8-1 Exertive, 10-1 Fitz Perfectly, Valkyrian, 16-1 Winnaretta.

Wright choice: Sparks Fly goes well here and is just 3lb higher than for his recent win at Thirsk **Danger** Valkyrian

Catterick

Rob Wright

1.50 Dreamcasing
2.20 Specific Times
2.50 Golden Gal
3.20 Themainprotagonist
3.50 Cold Henry
4.20 **Lezardrieux** (nb)
4.50 Milltown Lily
5.20 Purple Reign

Going: good to soft, good in places **Racing TV**
Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best

1.50 Handicap (£4,004: 7f) (9)

1	(8)	40600 **END ZONE** 15 (B) R Fell 6-10-0	**J Peate (3)**
2	(5)	000-0 **OBEE JO** 17 (P,CD) T Easterby 7-9-8	**Brandon Wilkie (8)**
3	(7)	00-04 **RAIN CAP** 16 (V,C,D) J Riches 6-9-7	**A Keeley**
4	(3)	1-332 **TWO SUMMERS** 17 (BF,C) A Keatley 4-9-7	**W Pyle (5)**
5	(4)	45-50 **CLOTHERHOLME** 14 (H,P,CD) Mrs A Duffield 6-9-6	**C Planas**
6	(9)	00-40 **MR STRUTTER** 12 (CD) D Thompson 9-9-3	**Elle-May Croot (5)**
7	(2)	100-0 **LIBERTY BREEZE** 41 (CD) Simon Whitaker 5-9-3	**M Winn**
8	(1)	6-666 **MUTANAASEQ** 10 R Carr 8-9-2	**C Howarth**
9	(6)	636-0 **DREAMCASING** 10 (BF) G Tuer 5-9-2	**A Brookes**

2-1 Two Summers, 7-2 Rain Cap, 6-1 Dreamcasing, 7-1 Mutanaaseq, 8-1 Clotherholme, 10-1 Mr Strutter, 14-1 Obee Jo, End Zone, 25-1 Liberty Breeze.

2.20 Fillies' Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,780: 5f) (4)

1	(2)	6 **FOXFIELD** 28 T Easterby 9-2	**D Allan**
2	(4)	**HARVANNA** K R Burke 9-2	**P-L Jamin (3)**
3	(3)	**MAJESTIC BEAUTY** Alice Haynes 9-2	**K Stott**
4	(1)	5 **SPECIFIC TIMES** 26 Charlie Johnston 9-2	**J Fanning**

6-5 Specific Times, 2-1 Majestic Beauty, 7-2 Harvanna, 12-1 Foxfield.

2.50 Handicap (£4,004: 5f) (13)

1	(7)	0-561 **ASTAPOR** 19 (CD) J Riches 5-9-13	**C Hutchinson (3)**
2	(2)	600-4 **GOLDEN GAL** 19 (CD) O Pears 4-9-12	**H Russell (3)**
3	(4)	50425 **LATIN FIVE** 10 (D) P Midgley 6-9-11	**D Nolan**
4	(1)	1-032 **ZOOM STAR** 23 (BF,CD) B Smart 5-9-11	**M Winn (5)**
5	(3)	20005 **IMPERIAL KHAN** 7 (P) P Midgley 4-9-10	**Laura Coughlan**
6	(13)	50203 **ROCKLEY POINT** 7 (B,CD) K Scott 10-9-9	**P Dennis**
7	(5)	41013 **JUMIRA BRIDGE** 11 (D) D Shaw 9-9-7	**T Eaves**
8	(8)	0-460 **CAPTAIN CORCORAN** 23 (H,CD) Mrs Stella Barclay 6-9-7	**S Gray**
9	(9)	0500- **LAAKHOF** 268 (T) D Carroll 4-9-7	**H Shaw**
10	(12)	066-0 **BILLY DYLAN** 109 (P,D) Suzzanne France 8-9-3	**F McManoman**
11	(11)	00-00 **MISS ANACO** 67 (T,V,D) S Bowring 4-9-3	**D Allan**
12	(10)	00053 **CONGRESS** 4 R Fell 3-8-13	**J Peate (5)**
13	(6)	006- **AMAZING ARTHUR** 237 T Easterby 3-8-8	**D Fentiman**

4-1 Astapor, 9-2 Jumira Bridge, Zoom Star, 5-1 Congress, 15-2 Golden Gal, 8-1 Rockley Point, 10-1 Latin Five, 20-1 Imperial Khan, Laakhof, Captain Corcoran.

3.20 Novice Stakes (3-Y-O: £4,050: 7f) (10)

1	(1)	**FINAL CREDIT** D O'Meara 9-7	**D Tudhope**
2	(2)	**JAILHOUSE ROCK** P Niven 9-7	**W Pyle (7)**
3	(7)	54- **OPERA LEGEND** 195 W Haggas 9-7	**D Costello**
4	(4)	0 **PETE THE BRIEF** 9 T Easterby 9-7	**D Allan**
5	(10)	05 **THEMAINPROTAGONIST** 28 C Hills 9-7	**K Shoemark**
6	(3)	**ELIZABETH'S JOY** Mrs A Duffield 9-2	**S Gray**
7	(5)	05- **HEARTLANDER** 154 Ewan Whillans 9-2	**Ryan Sexton (3)**
8	(8)	0 **LADYLINGMOOR** 9 J J Quinn 9-2	**J Hart**
9	(6)	4 **LAURA'S BREEZE** 24 E Dunlop 9-2	**Joanna Mason**
10	(9)	**PRETTY FLAG** G Boughey 9-2	**K Stott**

Evens Laura's Breeze, 5-1 Pretty Flag, 6-1 Opera Legend, 7-1 Final Credit, Themainprotagonist, 25-1 Elizabeth's Joy, Pete The Brief, Heartlander.

3.50 Handicap (£4,266: 2m) (7)

1	(7)	51325 **QUERCUS ROBUR** 17 (P,BF,D) A Nicol 4-9-13	**D Tudhope**
2	(4)	40-43 **OASIS PRINCE** 9 (P,CD) M Walford 7-9-13	**J Garritty**
3	(5)	3-346 **FLINT HILL** 17 Ruth Jefferson 7-9-10	**J Hart**
4	(1)	5-620 **VINTAGE VALLEY** 21 (P) D McCain 4-9-5	**D Nolan**
5	(3)	1-011 **ROBERT JOHNSON** 4 (C) P Kirby 5-9-5(5ex)	**Dale Swift**
6	(2)	40-34 **VISITE OFFICIELLE** 21 (P,T) M Hammond 5-8-12	**A Brookes (5)**
7	(6)	0011- **COLD HENRY** 202 (CD) Sara Ender 4-8-12	**Joanna Mason**

7-4 Cold Henry, 7-2 Robert Johnson, 5-1 Quercus Robur, 6-1 Oasis Prince, 7-1 Flint Hill, 12-1 Visite Officielle, 20-1 Vintage Valley.

4.20 Handicap (£4,527: 6f) (10)

1	(1)	000-0 **SHOWMOLINA** 23 (D) D Brooke 6-9-9	**J Garritty**
2	(4)	040-2 **LEZARDRIEUX** 7 (CD) G Tuer 6-9-9	**O Stammers (3)**
3	(9)	30-22 **LANGHOLM** 19 (T,BF,C,D) M Dods 7-9-8	**C Rodriguez**
4	(2)	60-04 **JOHN KIRKUP** 3 (B,D) D Thompson 8-9-7	**D Allan**
5	(5)	01-00 **REDROSEZORRO** 16 (H,CD) C Kellett 9-9-7	**J Hart**
6	(7)	00003 **SHABAABY** 11 (B,D) Ewan Whillans 8-9-7	**Ryan Sexton (3)**
7	(10)	24325 **MEWS HOUSE** 11 (CD) R Menzies 6-9-4	**P Mathers**
8	(8)	500-0 **HURSTWOOD** 23 (D) P Niven 6-9-0	**M Winn (5)**
9	(6)	0430- **ROUND THE ISLAND** 184 (C,D) Simon Whitaker 10-9-0	**P Dennis**
10	(3)	00-00 **WADE'S MAGIC** 15 (P,C,D) T Easterby 6-8-13	**Brandon Wilkie (7)**

5-2 Langholm, 100-30 Lezardrieux, 11-2 Mews House, 6-1 Shabaaby, 15-2 Round The Island, 12-1 John Kirkup, 16-1 Wade's Magic, 20-1 others.

4.50 Handicap (Div I: £4,004: 1m 4f) (11)

1	(9)	2214- **JAMIH** 244 (CD) Miss T Jackson 8-9-11	**Joanna Mason**
2	(7)	0033- **GLAN Y GORS** J211 (D) M Weatherer 11-9-8	**C Murtagh**
3	(3)	31460 **TRUSTY SCOUT** 38 (H,D) D Shaw 5-9-7	**T Eaves**
4	(11)	21155 **SICARIO** 67 (P,D) M Appleby 8-9-7	**F Larson (3)**
5	(4)	66222 **TURBULENT POWER** 4 (BF) B Rothwell 5-9-5	**F McManoman**
6	(1)	06U3- **PRINCE ACHILLE** 158 J O'Keeffe 4-9-4	**J Garritty**
7	(6)	00460 **LITUUS** 32 (B) G Tuer 4-9-3	**O Stammers (3)**
8	(8)	3-004 **THINK TRIGGER** 30 J Butler 5-9-1	**D Keenan**
9	(2)	400-3 **MILLTOWN LILY** 32 (T) M Hammond 5-9-0	**A Brookes (5)**
10	(10)	0/530 **COUP DE GOLD** J31 D Thompson 7-9-0	**D Allan**
11	(5)	00-50 **SEVEN FOR A POUND** 19 (P) R Carr 7-9-0	**H Shaw**

9-4 Turbulent Power, 9-2 Jamih, 8-1 Sicario, Glan Y Gors, Milltown Lily, Prince Achille, 14-1 Coup De Gold, Trusty Scout, Think Trigger.

5.20 Handicap (Div II: £4,004: 1m 4f) (10)

1	(10)	404-0 **BOUDICA WARRIOR** 25 S Pearce 4-9-9	**C Howarth (5)**
2	(2)	30205 **HASEEF** 20 (P) A Nicol 5-9-7	**D Tudhope**
3	(3)	13D-0 **TIBERIO FORCE** 16 Simon Whitaker 4-9-7	**P Dennis**
4	(4)	324-3 **JAMIL** 4 (T,CD) Miss T Jackson 8-9-6	**M Winn (5)**
5	(8)	3-500 **PURPLE REIGN** 24 (P,D) E Dunlop 4-9-4	**Joanna Mason**
6	(6)	6006- **SILVER VISION** J17 W Coltherd 4-9-4	**J Hart**
7	(5)	34426 **VISITANT** 32 (P,D) D Thompson 10-9-2	**S B Kirrane (3)**
8	(9)	00006 **JOHN THE PIRATE** 7 P Kirby 4-9-0	**Madi Patzelt (7)**
9	(1)	3405- **SKEDADDLED** 261 R Barr 5-9-0	**Dale Swift**
10	(7)	00-40 **ODD VENTURE** 62 M Hammond 6-9-0	**A Brookes (5)**

3-1 Visitant, 9-2 Tiberio Force, 5-1 Jamil, 11-2 Haseef, 7-1 Purple Reign, 8-1 John The Pirate, 10-1 Skedaddled, 20-1 Silver Vision.

Musselburgh

Rob Wright

2.00 Zachary
2.30 Azaim
3.00 Mereside Angel
3.30 Gobi Sunset
4.00 Ask Peter
4.30 Without Delay
5.05 Going Underground
5.40 Glory Call

Going: good **Racing TV**
Draw: 5f, high numbers best

2.00 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,050: 5f) (4)

1	(1)	**CUBAN SLIDE** K R Burke 9-7	**S James**
2	(3)	0 **PUMPKIN PIE** 9 I Jardine 9-7	**A Mullen**
3	(2)	**ZACHARY** Charlie Johnston 9-7	**B Curtis**
4	(4)	**MAKING DREAMS** K R Burke 9-2	**P Mulrennan**

6-5 Cuban Slide, 2-1 Zachary, 7-2 Making Dreams, 12-1 Pumpkin Pie.

2.30 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,664: 7f) (9)

1	(6)	0-54 **NOBLE CAPTAIN** 13 (T) K Scott 9-11	**B Curtis**
2	(1)	3000- **TEXAS BOY** 145 (T) R Menzies 9-9	**Paula Muir (3)**
3	(8)	0643 **MR JETMAN** 19 (BF) G Tuer 9-9	**S James**
4	(9)	603-4 **ROCKONMECCA** 17 M Dods 9-9	**C Beasley**
5	(4)	0-400 **SMOOTH RED** 13 (H) Ewan Whillans 9-6	**R Scott**
6	(5)	0665 **AZAIM** 14 M Dods 9-4	**B Garritty**
7	(7)	05-42 **B ASSOCIATES** 10 J Goldie 9-3	**P Mulrennan**
8	(3)	000- **GEORGE LODGE** 210 (V) J Camacho 9-0	**G Lee**
9	(2)	0-00 **ANA EMARAATY** 10 J Goldie 9-0	**C Hardie**

2-1 B Associates, 5-2 Rockonmecca, 4-1 Mr Jetman, 10-1 Noble Captain, 12-1 George Lodge, 14-1 Azaim, 20-1 Texas Boy, Ana Emaraaty, 25-1 Smooth Red.

3.00 Handicap (£5,234: 5f) (9)

1	(3)	61-01 **HAVAGOMECCA** 10 (P,CD) M Dods 5-9-10	**C Beasley**
2	(8)	00-00 **SOUND OF IONA** 9 (CD) J Goldie 7-9-9	**P Mulrennan**
3	(7)	0115- **EEH BAH GUM** 223 (W,CD) Mrs A Duffield 8-9-4	**O McSweeney (3)**
4	(4)	101-3 **RIVERSWAY** 10 (D) J Camacho 4-9-4	**B McHugh**
5	(6)	4000- **SPEEDACUS** 181 (D) D O'Meara 4-9-1	**Jason Watson**
6	(1)	12-05 **LADY LADE** 10 (BF,D) K Dalgleish 4-9-0	**B Garritty**
7	(2)	1414- **SHEIKH MAZ MAHOOD** 217 (CD) D Carroll 4-9-0	**Z Wheatley (5)**
8	(9)	305-3 **MERESIDE ANGEL** 21 (D) D & N Barron 4-8-10	**B Curtis**
9	(5)	64532 **PRIMO'S COMET** 10 (BF,CD) J Goldie 8-8-5	**C Hardie**

100-30 Havagomecca, 9-2 Primo's Comet, 5-1 Riversway, 7-1 Mereside Angel, Sheikh Maz Mahood, Lady Lade, 8-1 Eeh Bah Gum, 14-1 others.

3.30 Handicap (£3,664: 7f) (8)

1	(4)	062-0 **TOUCHWOOD** 25 R Carr 5-9-10	**JP Sullivan**
2	(1)	53006 **GOBI SUNSET** 15 (D) Charlie Johnston 6-9-9	**C Beasley**
3	(5)	40-00 **YAASER** 15 (CD) J Goldie 5-9-7	**P Mulrennan**
4	(7)	402-0 **GOMETRA GINTY** 15 (P,CD) K Dalgleish 7-9-6	**B Garritty**
5	(8)	0114- **BICEP** 250 (CD) G Tuer 4-9-6	**S James**
6	(3)	03-06 **AHAMOMENT** 15 D & N Barron 4-8-9	**B Curtis**
7	(2)	6-005 **MERRICOURT** 11 (P,C,D) I Jardine 7-8-8	**A Mullen**
8	(6)	01203 **ST ANDREW'S CASTLE** 37 (P,D) J Goldie 4-8-4	**C Hardie**

4-1 Bicep, 9-2 Gobi Sunset, 5-1 Touchwood, 6-1 St Andrew's Castle, Ahamoment, 7-1 Merricourt, Gometra Ginty, 12-1 Yaaser.

4.00 Handicap (£3,664: 2m) (8)

1	(6)	43300 **TRAILBLAZER** 33 (P) A Nicol 4-9-9	**B Curtis**
2	(5)	-1000 **TIGER SPIRIT** 35 (T,D) M Herrington 6-9-8	**C Beasley**
3	(8)	/30-6 **PARAMARIBO** 35 (T,V) I Jardine 5-9-7	**P Hanagan**
4	(3)	4-463 **ASK PETER** 7 Charlie Johnston 4-9-5	**Archie Young (7)**
5	(2)	24303 **FORGETMENOTBLUE** 12 (V,BF) K R Burke 4-9-2	**S James**
6	(7)	6015- **AIGHEAR** 221 J Goldie 5-8-13	**P Mulrennan**
7	(4)	0-520 **ZEPHLYN** 35 (B) Ewan Whillans 4-8-13	**G Lee**
8	(1)	00/00 **PAMMI** 7 (B) J Goldie 8-8-9	**C Hardie**

2-1 Forgetmenotblue, 3-1 Ask Peter, 4-1 Aighear, 7-1 Paramaribo, 10-1 Trailblazer, 12-1 Zephlyn, 16-1 Tiger Spirit, 33-1 Pammi.

4.30 Handicap (Div I: £3,664: 1m 1f) (10)

1	(9)	105-5 **WHEAL KITTY** 13 J Bedi 4-9-9	**Amie Waugh (5)**
2	(10)	30-01 **COSA SARA** 11 J Goldie 5-9-8	**P Mulrennan**
3	(5)	4056- **WITHOUT DELAY** 251 (W,C) T Waggott 4-9-7	**C Beasley**
4	(2)	-5623 **FANZONE** 10 (P,C) Liam Bailey 6-9-7	**B Curtis**
5	(3)	4-505 **COCONUT BAY** 13 T Davidson 4-9-6	**B Garritty**
6	(7)	045-5 **CHINESE SPIRIT** 10 (CD) Miss L Perratt 9-9-5	**G Lee**
7	(6)	-0044 **FAR FROM A RUBY** 11 (BF,D) K Scott 6-9-4	**S James**
8	(8)	440-0 **DOOMSDAY** 45 Liam Bailey 4-9-3	**Jason Watson**
9	(1)	60356 **OUR DICKIE** 13 (P,T,D) I Jardine 4-8-12	**A Mullen**
10	(4)	04000 **PERFECT SOLDIER** 4 (P,C,D) W Storey 9-8-11	**Paula Muir (3)**

9-4 Cosa Sara, 5-1 Far From A Ruby, 11-2 Fanzone, 6-1 Coconut Bay, 8-1 Without Delay, 10-1 Our Dickie, 14-1 Wheal Kitty, 16-1 others.

5.05 Handicap (Div II: £3,664: 1m 1f) (9)

1	(4)	0-302 **BULLS AYE** 11 (V,C) I Jardine 5-9-9	**A Mullen**
2	(8)	600 **HEER HE GOES** 35 H Graham & G Rutherford 6-9-7	**Amie Waugh (5)**
3	(9)	50-54 **BUTTERFLY ISLAND** 11 Liam Bailey 4-9-7	**Doubtful**
4	(6)	00-25 **HOSTELRY** 12 (D) R Carr 6-9-6	**JP Sullivan**
5	(7)	42341 **HOW BIZARRE** 10 (C) Liam Bailey 8-9-5	**Jason Watson**
6	(2)	0-000 **ESSENCIAL** 7 (P) Liam Bailey 4-9-4	**B Curtis**
7	(5)	42136 **BREGUET BOY** 19 (P,D) K Dalgleish 6-9-3	**B Garritty**
8	(3)	55424 **GOING UNDERGROUND** 10 (B) W Storey 6-9-2	**Paula Muir (3)**
9	(1)	030-0 **HOLLIS BROWN** 10 Miss L Perratt 4-8-13	**G Lee**

2-1 How Bizarre, 5-2 Bulls Aye, 5-1 Hostelry, 6-1 Breguet Boy, 8-1 Going Underground, 16-1 Essencial, 25-1 Heer He Goes, 33-1 Hollis Brown.

5.40 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,664: 5f) (7)

1	(7)	634-1 **TERESA GRACE** 41 (D) D Carroll 9-11	**Z Wheatley (5)**
2	(5)	66-61 **CAVALIER APPROACH** 13 (D) R Carr 9-10	**P Hanagan**
3	(3)	00-03 **CRIME FICTION** 19 (P) Adrian Nicholls 9-9	**B McHugh**
4	(2)	400-0 **CUBAN ROCK** 15 (H) J Goldie 9-9	**P Mulrennan**
5	(4)	044-3 **GLORY CALL** 13 O Pears 9-6	**JP Sullivan**
6	(1)	0-200 **CHEYENNE NATION** 13 (P) M Dods 9-3	**C Beasley**
7	(6)	-4340 **HOLLY BLACKMORE** 30 D O'Meara 8-11	**Jason Watson**

2-1 Teresa Grace, 3-1 Cavalier Approach, 4-1 Glory Call, 6-1 Cheyenne Nation, 10-1 Holly Blackmore, 12-1 Crime Fiction, 20-1 Cuban Rock.

Southwell

Rob Wright

5.45 Dime Store Cowgirl
6.15 Aviewtosea
6.45 Woolberry
7.15 Cabhfuilfungi
7.45 Midnight Jewel
8.15 Getaman
8.45 Sea The Clouds

Going: good to soft, soft in places
Sky Sports Racing

5.45 Handicap Chase (£3,406: 2m 4f) (11)

1	/426- **PATAGONIA** 21 (P,T) G Hanmer 6-12-0	**R T Dunne**
2	03P2- **DIME STORE COWGIRL** 29 (T) D Skelton 6-11-6	**Bridget Andrews**
3	4525- **FOX'S SOCKS** 140 (T) A Hales 8-11-4	**H Bannister**
4	24PU- **HIGGS** 20 (P) S-J Davies 10-11-4	**C Leonard (5)**
5	0000- **FOREVER DES LONG** 17 (T) C Dyson 8-11-3	**D Noonan**
6	0P04- **GO FOX** 68 (H) N King 8-11-0	**J Quinlan**
7	3225- **QUIET FLOW** 75 (P,T) S England 8-10-13	**T Midgley (5)**
8	400P- **MYSTIC MAN** 52 O Sherwood 6-10-6	**B Bromley (5)**
9	2134- **OVERTOUGEORGE** 322 C & A Pogson 9-10-5	**C J Todd**
10	/PP2- **MISS ANTIPOVA** 36 M Keighley 11-10-5	**J Best**
11	5042- **BRICKADANK** 30 (T) M Hammond 7-10-3	**C O'Farrell**

4-1 Dime Store Cowgirl, 9-2 Brickadank, 11-2 Quiet Flow, Miss Antipova, 13-2 Fox's Socks, 8-1 Patagonia, 10-1 Overtougeorge, Higgs.

6.15 Handicap Chase (£4,859: 3m) (6)

1	02P4- **FIRE AWAY** 17 (T) L Morgan 10-11-13	**A Wedge**
2	1211- **AVIEWTOSEA** 245 (T,D) F O'Brien 8-11-12	**P Brennan**
3	3/6P- **DOG OF WAR** 84 (W,T,D) D Skelton 9-11-11	**Bridget Andrews**
4	35PP- **CALIPSO COLLONGES** 36 (P,T) O Murphy 11-11-10	**S Bowen**
5	2445- **JAYTEE** 29 (P) I Williams 8-11-3	**B Hughes**
6	2112- **DEE STAR** 180 (P,T) G Hanmer 10-11-2	**K Brogan**

Evens Aviewtosea, 7-2 Dee Star, 7-1 Fire Away, 8-1 Jaytee, 10-1 Dog Of War, 12-1 Calipso Collonges.

6.45 NH Flat Race (£2,614: 2m) (10)

1	0- **ANNA OF ANNANDALE** 33 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-2	**S Twiston-Davies**
2	**BLUE THE MONEY** F O'Brien 5-11-2	**P Brennan**
3	**SHOLOKHOV COCKTAIL** (W) J Snowden 5-11-2	**G Sheehan**
4	**BEAR RIDGE** C & A Pogson 4-10-10	**R T Dunne**
5	**BY THE GRACE** N Henderson 4-10-10	**N De Boinville**
6	**CONNIEGETAWAY** J Coulson 4-10-10	**P Armson (3)**
7	**DARTING ROSE** Mrs P Sly 4-10-10	**Paul O'Brien**
8	0- **HOT FIZZY LIZZY** 58 D Skelton 4-10-10	**Bridget Andrews**
9	04- **SELKIRK GRACE** 29 (T) H Morrison 4-10-10	**D Bass**
10	**WOOLBERRY** E Lavelle 4-10-10	**J A Anderson (5)**

5-2 By The Grace, 3-1 Blue The Money, 11-2 Sholokhov Cocktail, 6-1 Woolberry, 7-1 Darting Rose, 12-1 Anna Of Annandale, Selkirk Grace, 25-1 Hot Fizzy Lizzy.

7.15 Maiden Hurdle (£4,357: 2m 4f) (8)

1	5/32- **CABHFUILFUNGI** 17 (T) G Hanmer 7-11-4	**R Mania**
2	4205- **HOSTILE HOTELIER** 21 J Candlish 5-11-4	**L Stones (3)**
3	65- **I GOT STUNG** 20 K Bailey 5-11-4	**D Bass**
4	43- **ILESTDANCINGSPIRIT** 83 Jonjo O'Neill 5-11-4	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
5	/2P6- **MOUNTAIN LEOPARD** 131 V Williams 8-11-4	**S Quinlan (3)**
6	50- **TRY THE MONEY** 17 Henry Oliver 5-11-4	**N Scholfield**
7	2/ **WESTWOOD RYDER** 714 (W,BF) N Henderson 6-11-4	**N De Boinville**
8	0/45- **EMILY'S STAR** 42 D Skelton 6-10-11	**Bridget Andrews**

9-4 Westwood Ryder, 3-1 Cabhfuilfungi, 9-2 Emily's Star, 5-1 Ilestdancingspirit, 8-1 Mountain Leopard, 10-1 Hostile Hotelier, 20-1 I Got Stung, 66-1 Try The Money.

7.45 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m 4f) (8)

1	/423- **CHTI BALKO** 55 (D) D McCain 11-12-2	**William Maggs (7)**
2	P035- **BARONY LEGENDS** 33 (D) O Murphy 7-11-12	**S Bowen**
3	11F2- **MIDNIGHT JEWEL** 196 (BF,D) C Longsdon 7-11-11	**Lilly Pinchin (3)**
4	1114- **BLUE SHARK** 66 (BF,D) Jonjo O'Neill 6-11-9	**Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
5	415P- **LIFETIME LEGEND** 29 (H,T) N King 5-11-8	**J Quinlan**
6	233P- **MARAJMAN** 39 (W,V,CD) C & A Pogson 9-10-7	**R T Dunne**
7	/P01- **BAGHDAD CENTRAL** 37 N Kent 7-10-5	**C Hammond**
8	0030- **MRS KINSELLA** 19 (P,T) R Potter 7-10-4	**C Quinn (5)**

5-2 Midnight Jewel, 9-2 Chti Balko, 11-2 Blue Shark, 6-1 Baghdad Central, 13-2 Lifetime Legend, 10-1 Barony Legends, Mrs Kinsella, Marajman.

8.15 Handicap Hurdle (£3,406: 2m) (10)

1	5536- **BOBBY SOCKS** 107 (T,BF) O Murphy 6-12-2	**S Bowen**
2	630-1 **KINGFAST** 3 (P) F O'Brien 8-11-6	**P Brennan**
3	/440- **ZORAN** 328 E Lavelle 6-11-3	**T Bellamy**
4	4152- **GETAMAN** 18 (B) D J Jeffreys 10-10-12	**Lilly Pinchin (3)**
5	3066- **EZ TIGER** 35 (T) A Hales 6-10-9	**B Carver**
6	0451- **ROCAMBOLAS** 44 (H,T,D) B Pauling 6-10-9	**Dylan Whelan (10)**
7	0040- **MY VIRTUE** 19 (H) M Rowley 5-10-7	**A Edwards**
8	0P34- **RUBY'S PEARL** 35 (T) Mrs E Bishop 6-10-6	**J Best**
9	22FP- **MUSE OF FIRE** 51 (T) G Hanmer 9-10-6	**K Brogan**
10	334- **YGRITTE** 146 D Skelton 4-10-2	**Bridget Andrews**

7-4 Kingfast, 11-4 Rocambolas, 9-2 Getaman, 12-1 Bobby Socks, Muse Of Fire, 14-1 Ygritte, 16-1 Ez Tiger, Zoran.

8.45 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m) (9)

1	4653- **TOO FRIENDLY** 21 (BF,D) James Owen 5-12-1	**A Coleman**
2	2002- **ELHAM VALLEY** 21 (T,D) F O'Brien 6-11-12	**Miss Fern O'Brien (7)**
3	1122- **SEA THE CLOUDS** 175 (BF,D) J Snowden 6-11-5	**G Sheehan**
4	5261- **TORONET** 76 L Morgan 4-11-4	**A Wedge**
5	21/5- **TARAHUMARA** 93 (W,BF,D) E Lavelle 7-11-2	**T Bellamy**
6	4P35- **RESTANDBETHANKFUL** 23 (T,D) R Menzies 7-11-1	**B Hughes**
7	00/P- **WITH A START** 17 (D) P Winks 8-11-1	**Mr T Broughton (7)**
8	3423- **MCGOWAN'S PASS** 30 (P,D) J Candlish 12-10-12	**W Shanahan (7)**
9	3522- **KARANNELLE** 258 (H,T,D) D Rees 8-10-10	**S Bowen**

4-1 Sea The Clouds, 9-2 Mcgowan's Pass, 5-1 Too Friendly, Elham Valley, Tarahumara, 6-1 Karannelle, 10-1 Toronet, 16-1 others.

Blinkered first time: Musselburgh 4.00 Zephlyn. **Wolverhampton** 5.15 Harbour Project.

Head lifts first classic

Christopher Head became the latest of his family dynasty to taste classic success as he saddled the hot favourite Blue Rose Cen to win the Poule D'Essaie Des Pouliches (French 1,000 Guineas) at Chantilly yesterday.

A son of the great Freddy, and nephew of top trainer Criquette, Head said: "I'm speechless as you dream about winning these races and when it happens you're a bit surprised."

Manton trainer Brian Meehan failed buy a short neck to land the Poule D'Essaie des Poulains (French 2,000 Guineas) when his Isaac Shelby was collared late on by 33-1 chance Marhaba Ya Sanafi.

Wolverhampton

Rob Wright

2.10 Due Date
2.40 Peace Wall
3.10 Intricacy
3.40 **Animate** (nap)
4.10 Rumnotred
4.40 Carey Street
5.15 Come On John

Going: standard **Sky Sports Racing**
Draw: 5f-7f, low numbers best

2.10 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,873: 6f) (10)

1	(6)	6420- **OVERNIGHT OATS** 207 (BF) W Muir & C Grassick 9-9	**P J McDonald**
2	(4)	406-0 **ABSOLUTELYFLAWLESS** 33 D Loughnane 9-9	**D Muscutt**
3	(2)	3-252 **RAZZAM** 10 (BF) R Varian 9-7	**R Dawson**
4	(7)	36-10 **TALLULAH MYLA** 40 (BF,D) S C Williams 9-7	**M Ghiani**
5	(10)	10- **MISS AMERICAN PIE** 367 J S Moore 9-6	**L Keniry**
6	(9)	25025 **IGNAC LAMAR** 34 (CD) B Millman 9-6	**O Searle (7)**
7	(3)	3050- **JUNGLE FEVER** 203 Charlie Johnston 9-4	**F Norton**
8	(8)	00-6 **FITZROY RIVER** 19 H Candy 9-2	**D O'Neill**
9	(5)	0-54 **DUE DATE** 44 C Cox 9-2	**J Fahy**
10	(1)	4556- **DEBATER** 206 H Palmer 8-13	**H Davies (3)**

5-2 Razzam, 5-1 Overnight Oats, 6-1 Miss American Pie, Due Date, 8-1 others.

2.40 Fillies' Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,564: 5f) (11)

1	(6)	**ADAAY IN DEVON** B Millman 9-2	**R Coakley**
2	(10)	**FISTRAL BEACH** G Scott 9-2	**Billy Loughnane (3)**
3	(3)	6 **LADY SHOWCASING** 26 Charlie Johnston 9-2	**F Norton**
4	(4)	**MEDIATE ALEXANDER** C Cox 9-2	**J Fahy**
5	(7)	0 **NAVAL FLIGHT** 18 D O'Meara 9-2	**R Oliver**
6	(1)	**PEACE WALL** K P De Foy 9-2	**J Mitchell**
7	(5)	6 **LADY OF AFRICA** 24 (T) Miss A Murphy 9-0	**H Doyle**
8	(9)	6 **MARIAMNE** 12 J Ferguson 9-0	**D Muscutt**
9	(8)	40 **MATCH THAT** 14 D O'Meara 9-0	**B Robinson**
10	(2)	**SHAH OF THE ISLE** Darryll Holland 9-0	**M Ghiani**
11	(11)	**VILLAS BULLET** Alice Haynes 9-0	**K O'Neill**

100-30 Mediate Alexander, 11-2 Peace Wall, 13-2 Fistral Beach, 7-1 others.

3.10 Novice Stakes (3-Y-O: £4,104: 1m 4f) (4)

1	(4)	21- **INTRICACY** 153 (C) S & E Crisford 9-11	**James Doyle**
2	(1)	14 **MAJESTIC WARRIOR** 25 (C) J Tate 9-11	**N Callan**
3	(3)	3 **LOVING FEELING** 28 (BF) J & T Gosden 9-4	**R Havlin**
4	(2)	404- **ROYAL DEESIDE** 208 A King 9-4	**D Probert**

7-4 Loving Feeling, 9-4 Intricacy, 5-2 Majestic Warrior, 7-1 Royal Deeside.

3.40 Handicap (3-Y-O: £5,129: 7f) (5)

1	(1)	314-6 **ANIMATE** 16 (D) S & E Crisford 9-9	**James Doyle**
2	(4)	510-0 **BOY BROWNING** 9 E J-Houghton 9-5	**H Doyle**
3	(5)	016-5 **MAGICAL MERLIN** 26 H & R Charlton 9-3	**D Probert**
4	(3)	221- **SUPASPECIALAWESOME** 148 (CD) H Palmer 9-1	**R Coakley**
5	(2)	2540- **HONEYMOONER** 202 W Muir & C Grassick 8-8	**Georgia Dobie (3)**

6-4 Supaspecialawesome, 9-4 Animate, 4-1 Magical Merlin, 11-2 others.

4.10 Handicap (£3,245: 7f) (8)

1	(4)	35114 **CALIN'S LAD** 12 (CD) A Carroll 8-9-11	**N Callan**
2	(2)	06005 **AMBER DEW** 16 S Dixon 4-9-7	**K O'Neill**
3	(3)	25006 **RUMNOTRED** 10 Mrs Stella Barclay 4-9-6	**C Fallon**
4	(1)	30/0- **GLOBAL ROMANCE** 243 (H,T) J Butler 4-9-6	**H Burns (3)**
5	(5)	34202 **BOBBY JOE LEG** 7 (B,CD) R Carr 9-9-5	**L Morris**
6	(8)	-6250 **MASHAAN** 27 (D) S Lycett 5-9-3	**D Probert**
7	(6)	00000 **NEFARIOUS** 19 (CD) S Dow 7-9-2	**H Doyle**
8	(7)	01550 **CATESBY** 13 (BF,C) S Dixon 6-8-12	**Elisha Whittington (5)**

11-4 Calin's Lad, 3-1 Bobby Joe Leg, 11-2 Catesby, 13-2 Mashaan, 15-2 others.

4.40 Handicap (£3,245: 1m 1f 104yd) (8)

1	(8)	000-3 **BARNEY'S ANGEL** 31 I Williams 4-9-11	**C Fallon**
2	(5)	44654 **CAREY STREET** 34 (P,CD) Mrs L Stubbs 7-9-9	**H Doyle**
3	(7)	000-0 **FITZROVIA** 24 E De Giles 8-9-8	**T Whelan**
4	(3)	60-06 **IT'S A LOVE THING** 86 (CD) J Butler 5-9-8	**G Wood**
5	(4)	530-0 **ROSE CAMIRA** 13 W Jarvis 4-9-7	**Doubtful**
6	(6)	-0021 **HOPEFORTHEBEST** 16 (P,T,CD) M Murphy & M Keady 4-9-3	**Georgia Dobie (3)**
7	(1)	63343 **COME TO PASS** 23 A Carroll 4-9-0	**L Morris**
8	(2)	05054 **SUN FESTIVAL** 2 (P,CD) Joseph Parr 5-8-10	**J Mitchell**

9-4 Come To Pass, 5-2 Hopeforthebest, 7-2 Barney's Angel, 6-1 others.

5.15 Handicap (£3,245: 1m 1f) (8)

1	(1)	44063 **COME ON JOHN** 2 (P) M Attwater 4-9-10	**R Havlin**
2	(3)	-3513 **HELLAVAPACE** 12 (B,BF,CD) J Portman 5-9-10	**Olivia Tubb (7)**
3	(6)	30104 **RECUERDAME** 12 (CD) S Dow 7-9-9	**H Doyle**
4	(5)	-6505 **STARRY EYES** 23 B Johnson 7-9-7	**D Muscutt**
5	(7)	50040 **ZOFFANY PORTRAIT** 16 (B) A Carroll 4-9-7	**L Morris**
6	(4)	2-055 **ORDER OF ST JOHN** 16 (P) D J Jeffreys 6-9-6	**D Probert**
7	(2)	-0500 **HARBOUR PROJECT** 13 (B,CD) A Carroll 6-9-0	**N Callan**
8	(8)	05300 **POP FAVORITE** 27 (B) S Dixon 5-9-0	**Elisha Whittington**

5-4 Hellavapace, 7-2 Recuerdame, 13-2 Come On John, 10-1 others.

Yesterday's racing results

Hamilton

Going: good to soft

3.45 (5f 7yd) 1, **Golden Arrow** (K T O'Neill, 13-8); 2, Moonstone Boy (5-4 fav); 3, Golden Mind (9-1). 5 ran. ¾l, ½l. Alice Haynes.

4.15 (6f 6yd) 1, **Quintus Arrius** (T Eaves, 5-1); 2, Mountain Warrior (11-2); 3, Installation (14-1). 12 ran. NR: Revision. Nk, 2¼l. K A Ryan.

4.45 (1m 1f 35yd) 1, **My Little Queens** (O J Orr, 3-1 fav); 2, Nigwa (100-30); 3, Balalaika (18-1). 14 ran. NR: Iato's Angel. Nk, sh hd. R A Fahey.

5.15 (1m 68yd) 1, **Pisanello** (D Tudhope, 3-1 fav); 2, What's The Story (6-1); 3, Mostawaa (9-1). 13 ran. NR: Harswell Duke. ½l, 1¼l. D O'Meara.

5.45 (5f 7yd) 1, **Jordan Electrics** (Cam Hardie, 10-1); 2, The Thin Blue Line (7-1); 3, Edward Cornelius (7-1). 11 ran. NR: Pockley. Nk, nk. J S Goldie.

6.15 (1m 5f 16yd) 1, **Geremia** (P Mulrennan, 9-2); 2, Dundory (18-1); 3, Haizoom (11-1). 12 ran. 1¼l, ¾l. J S Goldie.

6.45 (1m 3f 15yd) 1, **Derry Lad** (S A Gray, 7-1); 2, Beraz (40-1); 3, Faylaq (2-1 fav). 9 ran. NR: Belle Of Annandale. ½l, 3½l. Kevin Coleman.

Placepot: £84.10.

Quadpot: £47.30.

Ludlow

Going: good (good to soft in places)

2.05 (2m 7f 171yd ch) 1, **Shearer** (H Cobden, 7-4); 2, Jeffery's Cross (4-9 fav); NR: Silver Sheen. 2¼l, P F Nicholls.

2.35 (1m 7f 169yd hdle) 1, **Guy** (Sam Twiston-Davies, 10-11 fav); 2, Soldat Forte (11-4); 3, Captain Attridge (33-1). 10 ran. 3¾l, 11l. N A Twiston-Davies.

3.05 (2m 5f 55yd hdle) 1, **Impose Toi** (N de Boinville, 1-5 fav); 2, Chestnut Pete (6-1); 3, Bizzy Moon (12-1). 4 ran. 15l, 17l. N J Henderson.

3.35 (1m 7f 169yd hdle) 1, **Zucayan** (Nick Slatter, 4-1); 2, Him Malaya (7-1); 3, Highland Frolic (17-2). 10 ran. 1¼l, 2¼l. F O'Brien.

4.05 (2m 4f 11yd ch) 1, **Lost Connections** (G Sheehan, 9-2); 2, Lime Drop (9-2); 3, Marada (5-1). 6 ran. NR: Our Bill's Aunt. 11l, 3¼l. Katy Price.

4.35 (2m 5f 55yd hdle) 1, **Happy Index** (Adam Wedge, 13-2); 2, Dellboy Trotter (11-2); 3, Dynamic Kate (7-1). 11 ran. 1l, 8l. P R Webber.

5.05 (2m 7f 174yd hdle) 1, **Scrum Diddly** (Sam Twiston-Davies, 5-1); 2, The Bold Thady (13-8 fav); 3, Imprevu Du Large (16-5). 6 ran. NR: Realm Of Glory. 15l, 1¾l. O Sherwood.

Placepot: £107.70. **Quadpot: £17.90.**

Plumpton

Going: good

1.45 (1m 7f 195yd hdle) 1, **Angel's Dream** (N F Houlihan, 9-4); 2, Artistic Endeavour (13-2); 3, Definite (15-2). 9 ran. Nk, 5½l. G L Moore.

2.15 (3m 217yd hdle) 1, **Hello Sunshine** (Rex Dingle, 9-2); 2, Sandalwood (5-1); 3, Hatchet Jack (7-2). 12 ran. 11l, 4l. George Baker.

2.45 (2m 3f 164yd ch) 1, **Small Bad Bob** (Nick Scholfield, 7-2); 2, Trevada (9-2); 3, Not Another Muddle (5-1). 6 ran. 1½l, 7l. P Henderson.

3.15 (1m 7f 195yd hdle) 1, **Glance At Me** (J Martin, 16-5); 2, Andapa (15-2); 3, Tara Iti (3-1 fav). 14 ran. NR: Joyful Kit. ¾l, 2¼l. A Martin.

3.50 (2m 4f 114yd hdle) 1, **Royaume Uni** (Rob Hargreaves, 100-30); 2, Ashington (13-2); 3, Hasty Parisian (3-1 jt-fav). 7 ran. 4½l, 5l. G L Moore.

4.20 (3m 1f 152yd ch) 1, **Henschke** (J O'Neill Jr, 3-1); 2, Call Of The Loon (4-1); 3, Faustinovick (9-4 fav). 5 ran. 1¾l, 10l. W Greatrex.

4.50 (2m 1f 164yd Flat) 1, **A Tickatickatiming** (Harry Reed, Evens fav); 2, Stowford (14-1); 3, Buck Of Maine (11-1). 6 ran. NR: Ami Bondhu. 3¾l, ½l. Miss S West.

Placepot: £269.20. **Quadpot: £38.20.**

ICC is diminishing international game

Mike Atherton



Chief Cricket Correspondent

'Enlightened self-interest" is a phrase remembered from studies many years ago. I guess we were doing 18th-century international relations (or some such) and the phrase kept cropping up. Enlightened self-interest: which may be defined as acting in the interest of others while ultimately serving your own ends. A win-win, in other words.

The opposite of enlightened self-interest, is, well, self-interest. That may be defined right now by looking at the proposed distribution model for the ICC's surplus revenues over the next four years. If that distribution comes to pass, then the strong will get stronger, the weak weaker (relatively) and international cricket will continue to become less competitive — which is in nobody's long-term interest.

The proposed distribution model is based on surplus funds of about $600 million (about £480 million) a year from revenues over a four-year period between 2024 and 2027. From that, it is proposed that the full Test-playing nations get almost 89 per cent of those revenues, or $533 million a year, with the associate (or developing) nations receiving a paltry 11 per cent share. Funds to help develop the game globally are there, but are not being utilised for that purpose.

The distribution within the 12 full-member nations is just as inequitable. India, it is suggested, will receive $231 million a year (38.5 per cent of revenues), after which it scales down dramatically. England will get the next-biggest share of $41.33 million a year, then Australia $37.53 million a year and so on with Afghanistan getting the smallest share of $16.82 million a year. As Ehsan Mani, the former ICC president and former chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, said this week: the money is going where it is needed the least.

How is this distribution worked out? Every full-member nation starts with an equal weighting, after which a number of factors are built in to calculate the final distribution. These include marks for cricket history,

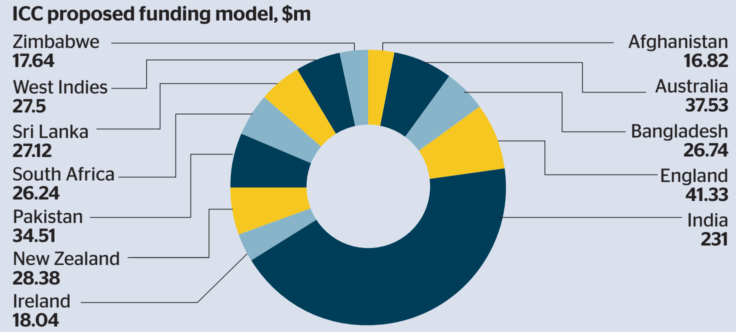
SPORTZPICS



Under the proposals, full Test nations will get almost 89 per cent of the £480 million pot, with India receiving £185 million

The 'big one' plan

ICC proposed funding model, $m



performance in ICC events, men and women, and the commercial contribution each country makes to the overall size of the pot. It is this last that skews the outcome significantly, given that by far the biggest contribution comes from the Indian television market.

The last two factors are problematic, though, in determining any distribution. For example, for their performances in ICC events, India, Australia and England are given the highest ratings. In other words, these are the countries that have competed most effectively in the ICC knockout competitions over the past 16 years or so. But they already enjoy an inherent advantage, because they host more key events than anyone else.

England, Australia and India have staged the past three men's 50-over World Cups, for example, with India due to stage the next one in October this year. Home advantage has proved to be significant, with India winning at home in 2011, Australia at home in 2015 and England at home last time out, in 2019. So not only do these countries get home advantage in key ICC events, they then get more of the distribution for performing well in those events.

As for the commercial contribution each country makes, this should have little bearing on the distribution from the ICC. Why? Because those countries who enjoy the good fortune of having dynamic home markets already exploit that advantage through their domestic television revenue streams. The ECB signed a billion-pound deal over five years with its broadcast partners; Australia enjoys a bumper return and India receives huge television revenues for its bilateral international engagements and the Indian Premier League. These dwarf those of other nations and are entirely separate from the ICC distribution.

These lucrative markets, therefore, give India and to a lesser extent England and Australia an in-built advantage. The West Indies, for example, suffers from being in a high-cost, low-income region: as a tourist destination, the cost of flights and hotels is high (thus the cost of staging cricket is high), and in a region of only five million people, its television revenues are low (how much it contributes commercially to the ICC deal is put at 0.1 per cent).

For the West Indies, and others, the revenue stream from the ICC is more important than internal markets. The ICC distribution should be about helping to equalise an inherently unequal global landscape.

The planned distribution model will be discussed at the next ICC meeting in June, but with every country getting a larger amount (in absolute terms) than now there may be little appetite to challenge the proposals.

About a decade ago I wrote extensively and critically of England's involvement in a similar plan hatched to increase its own revenues, alongside India and Australia, termed then as a takeover by the "big three". I thought it was a bad idea then, and think these proposals are a bad idea now.

A competitive international game, ultimately, benefits everyone. A game where the rich get richer and better resourced will lead to a more impoverished and less competitive international scene, which will then struggle ever more to compete with the franchised tournaments, where there are fewer barriers to a competitive landscape. The distribution of ICC monies should be about trying to reduce inequality, with distributions based on need, not exacerbating it.

There is a deeper malaise at work here. The economic transformation of India in the past three decades and the growing importance of television revenues have distorted cricket's landscape, making it more unequal and, therefore, in need more than ever of careful strategic thought and leadership. But there has been an absence of this at the ICC.

As long ago as 2012 a review into the governance of the ICC highlighted this weakness and was critical of "those in a strong financial position…using that strength to provide leverage that may be in individual members' interests rather than the interests of full members or indeed international cricket as a whole". The ICC was criticised for behaving like a private members' club rather than a governing body for the whole game.

Not much has changed. Enlightened self-interest, and careful strategic thought, would result in revenues being targeted to where they are needed most, to try to maintain a competitive balance. As it is, the proposed distribution will make the international game more unequal and, in the long run, more enfeebled — an escalation of present trends.

Results and scoreboards

Cricket

LV= County Championship
Division One
Kent v Hampshire

Canterbury (final day of four): Kent (8pts) drew with Hampshire (11)

Kent First Innings 95 (J K Fuller 5 for 21)

Second Innings (overnight 66-0)

Z Crawley st Brown b Dawson	56
B G Compton lbw b Barker	54
T Muyeye c Middleton b Dawson	0
J A Leaning not out	68
*S W Billings lbw b Barker	29
†J M Cox not out	30
Extras (b 7, lb 15)	22
Total (4 wkts, 113 overs)	**259**

Fall of wickets 1-122, 2-122, 3-126, 4-182.
Bowling Barker 25-4-60-2; Abbas 28-13-36-0; Abbott 7-1-21-0; Fuller 19-3-64-0; Dawson 18-9-31-2; Weatherley 6-0-14-0; Holland 7-4-3-0; Gubbins 1-0-1-0; Vince 2-0-7-0.

Hampshire First Innings 373 (L A Dawson 84, J J Weatherley 58, J K Fuller 51)

Umpires M J Saggers and P R Pollard.

Lancashire v Somerset

Emirates Old Trafford (final day of four): Lancashire (9pts) drew with Somerset (10)

Somerset First Innings 361 (J E K Rew 105, M J Henry 50 not out)

Second Innings (overnight 114-3)

T A Lammonby st Bell b Hartley	78
T Kohler-Cadmore b Williams	11
J E K Rew not out	118
K L Aldridge not out	101
Extras (b 10, lb 2, w 5, nb 4)	21
Total (5 wkts dec, 111 overs)	**398**

Fall of wickets 1-13, 2-94, 3-114, 4-139, 5-206.
Bowling Williams 11-1-45-2; Mahmood 16-5-46-1; Balderson 15-2-55-0; Hartley 29-7-88-2; Mitchell 5-1-11-0; Wells 7-2-23-0; Croft 7-0-35-0; Vilas 11-2-47-0; Bell 10-0-36-0.

Lancashire First Innings 326 (D J Mitchell 105, G P Balderson 71; C Overton 4 for 52, M J Henry 4 for 73)

Umpires N J Llong and T Lungley.

Surrey v Middlesex

Kia Oval (final day of four): Surrey (22pts) beat Middlesex (3) by nine wickets

Middlesex First Innings 209 (S D Robson 76, P J Malan 66; D J Worrall 5 for 48)

Second Innings (overnight 128-3)

M D E Holden c Foakes b Roach	43
†J A Simpson c Foakes b Abbott	23
R F Higgins c Roach b Clark	42
P J Malan c Patel b Atkinson	1
L B K Hollman c Foakes b Clark	4
*T S Roland-Jones c Sibley b Clark	6
E R Bamber not out	25
T J Murtagh b Abbott	0
Extras (b 8, lb 6, w 1, nb 14)	29
Total (71.4 overs)	**240**

Fall of wickets 1-55, 2-57, 3-108, 4-131, 5-155, 6-181, 7-186, 8-198, 9-235.
Bowling Roach 15-2-57-1; Worrall 17-4-61-0; Abbott 15.4-5-31-3; Atkinson 12-2-37-2; Clark 9-2-25-4; Jacks 2-0-8-0; Patel 1-0-7-0.

Surrey First Innings 380 (J L Smith 97, R J Burns 88)

Second Innings

*R J Burns c Eskinazi b Murtagh	14
D P Sibley not out	21
R S Patel not out	37
Extras (w 1)	1
Total (1 wkt, 16.4 overs)	**73**

Fall of wicket 1-17.
Bowling Murtagh 5-1-11-1; Roland-Jones 5-0-27-0; Bamber 3-1-9-0; Hollman 3-0-17-0; Stoneman 0.4-0-9-0.
Umpires R J Warren and G D Lloyd.

Finished Saturday: Northampton Northamptonshire 158 (R Vasconcelos 62, B A Hutton 5 for 37) and 72 (D Paterson 5 for 16); Nottinghamshire 255 (J M Clarke 76; J J G Sales 4 for 24, T A I Taylor 4 for 59). ***Nottinghamshire (20pts) beat Northamptonshire (3) by an innings and 25 runs***. **Edgbaston** Essex 126 (O J Hannon-Dalby 4 for 21, C Rushworth 4 for 28) and 215 (S R Harmer 50 not out; Hasan Ali 4 for 48, C Rushworth 4 for 62); Warwickshire 242 (W M H Rhodes 63, Hasan Ali 53 not out; D A J Bracewell 4 for 51) and 100-6. ***Warwickshire (19pts) beat Essex (3) by four wickets***.

	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bwl	Ded	Pts
Surrey	5	3	0	2	9	15	0	**82**
Warwickshire	5	3	1	1	11	15	0	**79**
Hampshire	5	2	2	1	7	13	0	**57**
Notts	5	2	2	1	5	15	0	**57**
Essex	5	1	1	3	8	14	0	**53**
Middlesex	5	2	3	0	1	15	0	**48**
Lancashire	5	0	0	5	8	13	0	**46**
Somerset	5	0	1	4	10	14	0	**44**
Kent	5	1	2	2	2	11	0	**39**
Northants	5	1	3	1	1	13	0	**35**

Division Two
Derbyshire v Gloucestershire

Derby (final day of four): Derbyshire (9pts) drew with Gloucestershire (11)

Derbyshire First Innings 251-9 dec (H R C Came 108)

Second Innings

H R C Came c Hammond b Singh-Dale	14
H Ali lbw b Price	6
†B D Guest c Harris b Singh-Dale	29
W L Madsen b Price	0
*J L du Plooy not out	61
M D Wagstaff c Price b Khan	18
L M Reece not out	20
Extras (b 6, lb 2, nb 10)	18
Total (5 wkts, 42 overs)	**166**

Fall of wickets 1-24, 2-28, 3-28, 4-96, 5-139.
Bowling Singh-Dale 11-1-47-2; Price 11-2-36-2; Taylor 7-1-32-0; Khan 12-2-43-1; Dent 1-1-0-0.

Gloucestershire First Innings (overnight 195-5)

B G Charlesworth c Guest b Brookes	87
T J Price c Wagstaff b Thomson	32
Z G Khan c Brookes b Lakmal	53
M de Lange c Madsen b Lakmal	7
M D Taylor not out	57
A Singh-Dale c and b Conners	5
Extras (b 4, lb 13, nb 10)	27
Total (101.3 overs)	**383**

Fall of wickets 1-27, 2-27, 3-103, 4-103, 5-182, 6-245, 7-259, 8-275, 9-374.
Bowling Lakmal 25-9-77-3; Conners 22.3-3-81-1; Reece 13-5-47-3; Brookes 21-2-72-2; Thomson 20-2-89-1.
Umpires N L Bainton and J Shantry

Durham v Yorkshire

Chester-le-Street (final day of four): Durham (19pts) beat Yorkshire (4) by one wicket

Yorkshire First Innings 254 (M J Potts 4 for 49)

Second Innings 218 (G C H Hill 51; B A Raine 4 for 36, M J Potts 4 for 61)

Durham First Innings 227 (G C H Hill 4 for 43)

Second Innings (overnight 213-8)

B A Raine not out	50
M J Potts lbw b Hill	25
B A Carse not out	2
Extras (b 7, lb 12)	19
Total (9 wkts, 81 overs)	**246**

Fall of wickets 1-47, 2-82, 3-126, 4-147, 5-150, 6-154, 7-173, 8-173, 9-244.
Bowling Fisher 22-4-64-4; Thompson 14-1-55-3; Hill 20-5-42-2; Edwards 4-0-21-0; Revis 5-0-18-0; Bess 16-4-27-0.
Umpires P K Baldwin and B J Debenham.

Leicestershire v Sussex

Leicester (final day of four): Leicestershire (8pts) drew with Sussex (12)

Sussex First Innings 430 (T P Alsop 182 not out, C A Pujara 77, J M Coles 70; P W A Mulder 5 for 63)

Leicestershire First Innings 270 (R Ahmed 59 not out; A Karvelas 4 for 79, F J Hudson-Prentice 4 for 48)

Second Innings (following on; overnight 16-0)

R K Patel c Alsop b Currie	100
S G Budinger c Orr b Hudson-Prentice	17
*L J Hill c Alsop b Crocombe	0
C N Ackermann lbw b Karvelas	6
†P S P Handscomb b Currie	0
P W A Mulder not out	102
R Ahmed c Smith b Crocombe	9
T A R Scriven not out	51
Extras (b 5, lb 5)	10
Total (6 wkts dec, 82 overs)	**295**

Fall of wickets 1-56, 2-57, 3-64, 4-65, 5-187, 6-196.
Bowling Karvelas 20-8-40-1; Hudson-Prentice 17-8-46-1; Crocombe 18-4-72-2; Currie 22-2-91-2; Coles 4-0-29-0; Smith 1-0-7-0.
Umpires J D Middlebrook and M H A Syed.

Finished Saturday: Sophia Gardens Worcestershire 109 (J A R Harris 4 for 18, M G Neser 4 for 40) and 227 (T van der Gugten 5 for 48); Glamorgan 258 (M G Neser 86; A W Finch 5 for 74) and 82-0 (E J Byrom 51 not out). ***Glamorgan (20pts) beat Worcestershire (3) by ten wickets***.

	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bwl	Ded	Pts
Durham	**5**	3	1	1	17	13	1	**82**
Sussex	**5**	1	0	4	17	15	4	**64**
Leicestershire	**5**	1	0	4	13	11	0	**60**
Glamorgan	**5**	1	0	4	9	14	0	**59**
Worcs	**5**	1	2	2	7	14	0	**47**
Gloucs	**5**	0	0	5	3	10	0	**38**
Derbyshire	**5**	0	2	3	7	15	0	**37**
Yorkshire	**5**	0	2	3	7	11	0	**33**

Third one-day international
Ireland v Bangladesh

Chelmsford (Ireland won toss): Bangladesh beat Ireland by four runs

Imposing Surrey lay down marker for title defence

Surrey v Middlesex

The Oval (final day of four): Surrey (22pts) beat Middlesex (3) by nine wickets

LV=Insurance County Championship

Mike Atherton

Surrey returned to the top of the table with a crushing victory over their neighbours Middlesex. It was the first time in more than a decade that south of the river has prevailed over north in a Championship fixture, but the gulf between the teams was as wide as the Thames. On this evidence Surrey's defence of their crown will be hard to overcome, while Middlesex will have a battle to stay in Division One.

No Surrey team can expect to emulate the success of the 1950s, when the club won seven titles outright, but Rory Burns will have an excellent chance of raising the pennant for the third time as captain, which would emulate Adam Hollioake's team around the turn of the century. They have enviable depth to their squad in all departments and look well motivated.

After a rusty start, Surrey were good value for a win that looked likely from the moment Middlesex's second wicket fell on the first day. After that, the match was defined by a dramatic first-innings collapse from Middlesex, some classy batting from Burns and Jamie Smith, lower-order runs from Surrey that brought a significant first-innings lead, and then more relentless seam bowling from the champions.

The brightest conditions of the match greeted the players on the fourth morning, with Middlesex still in arrears by 43 runs, seven wickets in hand. Five then fell in the morning session, shared between four seamers. Soft and receptive on the first day, the pitch had dented a little by the second innings so that even though the sun and the warmth suggested batting ought to have been more straightforward, there was enough help for the bowlers.

To exacerbate matters, Middlesex have issues with their batting, which so far has brought a solitary batting bonus point and very little cheer. Most of the top order remain short of runs and some, like Steve Eskinazi and Max Holden, will look forward to the start of the T20 competition when they will be able to play with a little more freedom. An injury to Pieter Malan did not help and he hobbled out with a runner at No7, but did not stay for long.

The home attack was quicker and more penetrative throughout the match, and look better placed as the competition moves into the warmer summer months. Kemar Roach, ever skilful, took the opening wicket of the morning, when chipping the outside edge of Holden's bat from round the wicket. He then gave way to Jordan Clark, who hit the pitch hard and finished with four wickets in all, justifying the selection of five seamersinstead of a more balanced attack.

What resistance there was came from Ryan Higgins, a combative cricketer who irritated Surrey's bowlers and fielders. Words were had.

Ben Foakes had a hand in the first five wickets to fall, his fifth catch highlighting just what a fine gloveman he is. His opposite number, John Simpson, tickled a ball from Sean Abbott down the leg side to which Foakes, spring-heeled, took one step and then another before flinging himself to his right to take a fine one-handed catch to his obvious delight. Observers often focus on a wicketkeeper's glovework, but footwork is important. Foakes finished with six catches in all.

The winning target was reached for the loss of Burns only, half a day to spare, leaving the home team's supporters to bask in the warmth of a pleasant Sunday afternoon, a rare derby win and the promise of more silverware to come.



Surrey's Foakes was in top form, taking six catches

STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES



393 Days since Yorkshire won a red-ball match. Since their victory on April 17, 2022 against Gloucestershire, they have gone 18 games without a win

Yorkshire bowler Jordan Thompson can only watch on as Ben Raine completes his half-century by scampering through for the winning runs as Durham knocked off the 33 runs they needed in the morning to win by one wicket at Chester-le-Street

Anderson has scan on 'mild' groin strain

Lancashire v Somerset

Old Trafford (final day of four): Lancashire (9pts) drew with Somerset (10)

Paul Edwards

James Anderson is a doubt to face Ireland in England's first Test of the summer after he went for a scan on a mild groin strain suffered while bowling on the first day of Lancashire's draw against Somerset.

England's leading wicket-taker did not bat or feature in the rest of the match at Old Trafford and the ECB said his fitness would be assessed before England's first Test at Lord's on June 1.

Somerset's captain Tom Abell was unrepentant yesterday evening after his side had batted through a tedious final day. Resuming on 114 for three and with a lead of 149, the visitors were 398 for five when the match was finally put to sleep at 4.50pm with the 19-year-old James Rew unbeaten on 118, his second century of the match. However, Rew had made some of his runs against the bowling of Dane Vilas and the Lancashire wicketkeeper, George Bell, and it was noticeable that he barely celebrated reaching three figures.

After tea, Kasey Aldridge reached his maiden first-class century with a pull for six off Vilas. It should be a great moment in a young cricketer's career but outside the away balcony at Old Trafford, it barely raised a spatter of applause. However, while Abell accepted that the final day had been a damp squib, he blamed it on the sides' failure to agree a specific target on Saturday.

"We went to Lancashire yesterday afternoon, before the second new ball, about the possibility of making a game," he said. "We felt we needed the best part of 96 overs to bowl a side out and it wasn't right for them at the time, which is fair enough.

"But a chase of only 50 to 60 overs only plays into their hands. We wanted to set up a game where both teams would have a chance of winning, but it didn't feel right. Fifty or sixty overs on that surface wasn't going to be enough."

Abell found support on Twitter from Craig Overton, the Somerset fast bowler who took four wickets in Lancashire's first innings. The 29-year-old, who has played eight Tests for England, defended Somerset in response to a mocking post by Lancashire saying: "I bet you're fun at parties Somerset".

"We came at you with a reasonable offer yesterday afternoon to make a game of it yet you declined," he tweeted, following it up with: "How does 350 [runs] in 90 [overs] sound?"

As Lancashire and Somerset's players reflect on the first six weeks of the season, they may conclude that the reduction in points awarded for a draw from eight to five has made cautious strategies far less attractive.

Bangladesh		(balls)
*Tamim Iqbal c Young b Dockrell	69	(82)
Rony Talukdar c Tucker b Adair	4	(14)
Najmul Hossain Shanto c Balbirnie b Young	35	(32)
Litton Das c Adair b McBrine	35	(39)
Towhid Hridoy b Dockrell	13	(16)
†Mushfiqur Rahim lbw b McBrine	45	(54)
Mehidy Hasan Miraz c Young b Adair	37	(39)
Mrittunjoy Chowdhury c Balbirnie b Adair	8	(11)
Hasan Mahmud run out	1	(2)
Mustafizur Rahman c Tucker b Adair	0	(1)
Ebadot Hossain not out	1	(3)
Extras (lb 9, w 17)	26	
Total (48.5 overs)	**274**	

Fall of wickets 1-18, 2-67, 3-137, 4-159, 5-186, 6-261, 7-265, 8-271, 9-273.

Bowling Little 9-0-65-0; Adair 8.5-0-40-4; Young 10-0-53-1; Campher 5-0-37-0; McBrine 9-0-39-2; Dockrell 7-0-31-2.

Ireland		(balls)
S T Doheny c Das b Rahman	4	(16)
P R Stirling c Chowdhury b Miraz	60	(73)
*A Balbirnie c Talukdar b Hossain	53	(78)
H T Tector c Das b Shanto	45	(48)
†L Tucker b Rahman	50	(53)
C Campher c Iqbal b Rahman	1	(4)
G H Dockrell c sub b Rahman	3	(5)
A R McBrine c Chowdhury b Mahmud	4	(10)
M R Adair b Mahmud	20	(10)
C A Young not out	3	(3)
J Little not out	1	(1)
Extras (b 6, lb 11, w 8, nb 1)	26	
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	**270**	

Fall of wickets 1-17, 2-126, 3-146, 4-225, 5-226, 6-236, 7-242, 8-265, 9-266.

Bowling Mahmud 9-0-44-2; Rahman 10-1-44-4; Hossain 10-1-53-1; Chowdhury 8-0-64-0; Miraz 10-1-38-1; Shanto 3-0-10-1.

● Bangladesh won three-match series 2-0

Indian Premier League

Jaipur Royal Challengers Bangalore 171-5 (20 overs: F du Plessis 55, G J Maxwell 54); Rajasthan Royals 59 (10.3 overs). ***Royal Challengers Bangalore (2pts) won by 112 runs***. **Chennai** Chennai Super Kings 144-6 (20 overs); Kolkata Knight Riders 147-4 (18.3 overs: N Rana 57 not out, R K Singh 54). ***Kolkata Knight Riders (2pts) won by six wickets***.

Cycling

Giro d'Italia

Leading positions: Ninth stage (time trial; Savignano sul Rubicone to Cesena, 35km): 1, R Evenepoel (Bel, Soudal-Quick-Step) 41min 24sec; 2, G Thomas (GB, Ineos Grenadiers) at 1sec behind; 3, T Geoghegan Hart (GB, Ineos Grenadiers) 2; 4, S Küng (Switz, Groupama-FDJ) 4; 5, B Armirail (Fr, Groupama-FDJ) 8; 6, P Roglic (Slove, Jumbo-Visma) 17; 7, T Arensman (Neth, Ineos Grenadiers) 24; 8, A Vlasov (Russ, Bora-hansgrohe) 30; 9, J Almeida (Por, UAE Team Emirates) 35; 10, D Caruso (It, Bahrain Victorious) 42 11. **Overall** 1, Evenepoel 34:33:42; 2, Thomas at 45sec; 3, Roglic 47; 4, Geoghegan Hart 50; 5, Almeida 1min 7sec; 6, A Leknessund (Nor, Team DSM) same time; 7, Vlasov 1:48; 8, Caruso 2:13; 9, L Kämna (Ger, Bora-hansgrohe) 2:37; 10, P Sivakov (Fr, Ineos Grenadiers) 2:58; 16, H Carthy (GB, EF Education-EasyPost) 4:07.

Golf

DP World Tour Soudal Open

Antwerp: Leading final scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): **267** S Forsstroem (Swe) 64, 67, 67, 69. **268** J Dantorp (Swe) 65, 69, 67, 67. **270** T Olesen (Den) 68, 67, 69, 66. **271** M Southgate 69, 70, 64, 68; A Bjoerk (Swe) 66, 69, 69, 67; M Lorenzo-Vera (Fr) 68, 70, 64, 69. **272** R Ramsay 68, 68, 66, 70; T Detry (Bel) 67, 66, 66, 73; J Morrison 65, 69, 70, 68. **273** D Bradbury 69, 70, 66, 68; A Cockerill (Can) 70, 70, 66, 67; Kim Yeong-su (S Kor) 72, 64, 67, 70; R Hisatsune (Japan) 66, 71, 67, 69; A Wilson 65, 71, 66, 71.

US PGA Tour AT&T Byron Nelson

McKinney, Texas: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): **197** Dou Zecheng (China) 63, 70, 64; A Eckroat 69, 65, 63; R Palmer 64 65 68. **199** J Day (Aus) 64, 69, 66; Kim Si-woo (S Kor) 65, 66, 68; V Norrman (Swe) 68, 66, 65; S Scheffler 64, 64, 71. **200** T Hatton (Eng) 68, 67, 65; Kang Sung-hoon (S Kor) 66, 68, 66; P Kizzire 66, 70, 64; R Werenski 64, 68, 68. **201** S O'Hair 65, 69, 67; Pan Chengtsung (Taiwan) 67, 66, 68; C Young 70, 68, 63. **202** An Byeong-hun (S Kor) 67, 67, 68; A Baddeley (Aus) 71, 65, 66; Bae Sang-moon (S Kor) 66, 68, 68; J Bramlett 68, 67, 67; J Hahn 67, 69, 66; S Harrington 68, 68, 66; M Hughes (Can) 65, 64, 73; H Norlander (Swe) 66, 67, 69; S Piercy 64, 69, 69; A Scott (Aus) 63, 71, 68; S Stevens 65, 68, 69.

Women's European Tour Jabra Open

Evian-les-Bains: Leading final scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): **204** L Grant (Swe) 68, 67, 69. **206** A van Dam (Neth) 65, 70, 71; C Palomar-Herbin (Fr) 67, 71, 68. **208** J Gustavsson (Swe) 71, 69, 68; V Carta (It) 72, 69, 67; A Fanali (It) 73, 66, 69. **209** H Davis 70, 67, 72. **210** A Peláez (Sp) 72, 70, 68; T Koivisto (Fin) 70, 74, 66. **211** G Cowley 70, 68, 73; A-C Mora (Fr) 73, 70, 68; K Metraux (Switz) 70, 71, 70. **213** C Alonso (Sp) 73, 71, 69; N Iturrioz (Sp) 71, 72, 70; K Rudgeley (Aus) 75, 68, 70; L Wessberg (Swe) 74, 69, 70.

LPGA Cognizant Founders Cup

Clifton, New Jersey: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): **204** Lee Min-jee (Aus) 68, 69, 67. **207** A Yin 69, 70, 68; Ryu Hae-ran (S Kor) 67, 70, 70. **208** Ko Jin-young (S Kor) 68, 68, 72; A Buhai (SA) 71 69 68; A Ashok (India) 69, 68, 71. **209** C Knight 68, 70, 71; G Kim (Aus) 69, 72, 68. **210** A Thitikul (Thai) 68, 73, 69; N Hataoka (Japan) 68, 71, 71; Kim Sei-young (S Kor) 66, 76, 68; S Lewis 68, 72, 70; M Uribe (Col) 72, 69, 69. **211** G Hall (Eng) 71, 69, 71; R O'Toole 69, 75, 67; L Coughlin 71, 70, 70; M Metraux (Switz) 74, 66, 71; S Kemp (Aus) 71, 65, 75.

Rugby league

Betfred Super League St Helens 26 Salford Red Devils 12.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warrington	12	10	0	2	317	169	**20**
Wigan	12	8	0	4	269	151	**16**
Hull KR	12	8	0	4	272	162	**16**
Catalans D	12	8	0	4	290	204	**16**
Leigh	12	7	0	5	248	197	**14**
Salford	12	7	0	5	242	221	**14**
St Helens	11	6	0	5	218	157	**12**
Leeds	12	6	0	6	241	231	**12**
Hull	12	5	0	7	178	328	**10**
Huddersfield	11	4	0	7	171	186	**8**
Castleford	12	2	0	10	131	302	**4**
Wakefield	12	0	0	12	77	346	**0**

Betfred Super Championship Batley Bulldogs 17 Toulouse 16; Bradford Bulls 44 Swinton Lions 38; Halifax Panthers 60 Whitehaven 0; Keighley Cougars 18 Sheffield Eagles 46; London Broncos 30 Barrow Raiders 16; Widnes Vikings 0 Featherstone Rovers 30; York City Knights 26 Newcastle Thunder 22. **League One** Cornwall 10 Hunslet 54; Dewsbury Rams 26 Doncaster 12; London Skolars 24 Rochdale Hornets 28; Workington Town 18 Oldham 28.

Rugby union

Gallagher Premiership play-offs: semi-finals Sale Sharks 21 Leicester Tigers 13; Saracens 38 Northampton Saints 15.

RFU Championship Cup: Final Ealing Trailfinders 35 Jersey Reds 31.

United Rugby Championship: Play-off semi-finals Stormers 43 Connacht 25; Leinster 15 Munster 16.

Women's Allianz Premier 15s Harlequins 80 Wasps 7; Loughborough Lightning 26 Gloucester 40; Sale Sharks 24 Bristol Bears 49; Saracens 29 Exeter Chiefs 22; Worcester Warriors 48 DMP Sharks 7.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Gloucester-H	15	14	0	1	610	169	11	**68**
Exeter	15	13	0	2	743	155	13	**65**
Saracens	15	12	0	3	673	241	11	**59**
Bristol	15	10	0	5	555	354	11	**51**
Harlequins	15	9	0	6	500	297	11	**47**
Worcester	15	6	0	9	411	515	11	**35**
Sale	15	5	0	10	253	523	5	**25**
Loughborough	15	4	0	11	372	440	7	**23**
DMP Sharks	15	2	0	13	121	817	2	**10**
Wasps	15	0	0	15	78	805	1	**1**

Tennis

Internazionali BNL d'Italia

Rome: Men: Second round M Cecchinato (It) bt R Bautista Agut (Sp) 6-2, 6-2; S Tsitsipas (Gr) bt N Borges (Por) 6-3, 6-3; Y Hanfmann (Ger) bt T Fritz (US) 6-4, 6-1; F Marozsan (Hun) bt J Lehecka (Cz) 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4); F Tiafoe (US) bt D Altmaier (Ger) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; D Medvedev (Russ) bt E Ruusuvuori (Fin) 6-4, 6-2; L Musetti (It) bt M Arnaldi (It) 6-4, 6-4; A Zverev (Ger) bt D Goffin (Bel) 5-7, 6-3, 6-4. **Third round** N Djokovic (Ser) bt G Dimitrov (Bul) 6-3, 4-6, 6-1; H Rune (Den) bt F Fognini (It) 6-4, 6-2; A Popyrin (Aus) bt R Safiullin (Russ) 7-5, 7-5; L Djere (Ser) bt C Garín (Chile) 6-3, 2-1 ret; F Cerúndolo (Arg) bt G Barrere (Fr) 6-7 (0-7), 6-2, 6-2; C Ruud (Nor) bt A Bublik (Kaz) 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (7-0); C Norrie (GB) bt M Fucsovics (Hun) 6-2, 7-6 (7-4). **Women: Third round** K Muchova (Cz) bt C Giorgi (It) 7-6 (7-4), 6-2; I Swiatek (Pol) bt L Tsurenko (Ukr) 6-2, 6-0; E Rybakina (Kaz) bt A Kalinskaya (Russ) 4-3 ret; M Keys (US) wo V Azarenka (Bela); J Ostapenko (Lat) bt B Krejcikova (Cz) 7-6 (7-2), 6-0; P Badosa (Sp) bt M Kostyuk (Ukr) 6-4, 6-2; D Kasatkina (Russ) bt J Grabher (Austria) 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7-2); M Bouzkova (Cz) bt C Gauff (US) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; M Vondrousova (Cz) bt M Sakkari (Gr) 7-5, 6-3; D Vekic (Cro) bt L Samsonova (Russ) 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

I almost left Leicester after three days but Steve got me to stay

Kevin Sinfield reveals how the former Tigers head coach helped him to overcome the culture shock of rugby union

In my first week as a Leicester Tigers coach, I left home at 4am on the Monday, worked three days straight, stayed in the city on the Monday and Tuesday nights, then drove home on the Wednesday and said to Jayne: "I'm not going back."

I felt so exposed, thought I wasn't capable of doing the job, decided it was too much. And I have no problem admitting it, because it's a constructive message for others. I'd felt similarly vulnerable moving from Leeds Rhinos to Leeds Carnegie, and when starting at the Rugby Football League – being in a real job for the first time.

Feeling uncomfortable about joining the Tigers wasn't in itself a problem. I'd wanted to take a risk. But I just felt too uncomfortable. It was too far, too much of a leap into the unknown. My only aim was to do a good job at Welford Road but now I had decided I would only let the club down, let the players down — and head coach Steve Borthwick down — by staying.

The following morning I called Steve, who was on his way to meet Eddie Jones, the England coach. I told him: 'I'm not coming back.' Steve acknowledged that I appeared to have made my mind up but still wanted to talk it through. He said he would call after his meeting with Eddie.

I liked watching rugby union but didn't fully understand it, which left me massively exposed. I'd sat in the coaches' meeting on the Monday and Tuesday mornings and didn't have a clue what they were on about. 'What is this?' I thought. They were talking players and tactics and systems. I felt disorientated.

On the Thursday morning Steve asked me to come back on Friday morning to discuss it face to face.

I said no.

He asked me to think about it.

A shift was already underway. Steve's way of dealing with it was beginning to have an influence on me. It was plain he really wanted me on his coaching staff. Jayne and my mum and dad were all supportive of the decision I'd taken, though Dad did say, "You've never quit anything", which rattled me, though it was said for the right reasons.

On the Friday morning, back I went, and I agreed to give it a go. My policy was to admit to the lads when it was necessary: there are holes in my knowledge, so some bits I'll get wrong. I framed it as a two-way street. I would be able to help them, but they'd also have to help me. I told them there might be moments when they'd want to laugh or shake their heads and ask, "What is he on about?"

They'd need to understand that my native tongue was rugby league.



Sinfield enjoys the celebrations after Leicester's Premiership title win last year

Every time any union issue was discussed it might need translating. It was like learning a new language. In my head I was constantly going back and forth between the codes. I was still dreaming rugby league, while these guys were dreaming rugby union.

The breakdown, when the ball carrier is tackled and other players fly in to join a ruck, was an esoteric new world I'd have to work to understand. And the scrum, which is a complex set of laws and techniques. Backfield play wasn't massively different. For a while I would look at the breakdown and not know what was going on. But equally that was true for some coaches who'd worked in union for thirty or forty years.

Steve understood from those first couple of days that he couldn't assume everything about my knowledge. Playing for Carnegie hadn't fully educated me in the ways of the fifteen-player game. But if you wanted to ask me how a tackle or a defensive system looked in league or union – I could tell you that. And I could talk plenty about attitude, how hard we'd have to work. I could give you all those bits. The intricacies were another matter.

An accountant friend in Manchester has a saying on his wall by Richard Branson: "If you get offered a job and you don't quite know what to do, just say yeah and work it out afterwards." That's what I did. I thought, "I can work this out as I go along." At least I had that understanding of defence from rugby league and had played seven months of rugby union. I was willing to graft, if the support was there.

All the coaching and support staff at Leicester were brilliant with me. There couldn't have been a better environment to walk into. If they'd been protective, or seen me as a threat, it would have been so different, and very difficult.

Some will wonder whether they had me marked down as the next Shaun Edwards. Shaun is a Wigan legend who coached defence for Wales and France after leaving Wasps, where he worked from 2001 to 2011. He's been hugely successful in rugby union. I hadn't really encountered him on my travels but now it seemed a good idea to call him for background advice. We spoke for five minutes. My first impression: big Wigan accent, a jack in the box. I couldn't take in a lot of what he said. But a second opportunity came my way. This time he was relaxed, and I absorbed every word. The second call wasn't a long one either, but he picked my brains too, on try-line defence in rugby league – something I would try to instil at Leicester (we conceded the fewest number of tries in the league in 2021-22).

I might even say our defensive system at Leicester was modelled partly on Saddleworth Rangers under-15s in rugby league. Simple, stripped back. I kept being told how complicated people had made rugby union. But there are things in either code you simply have to do. You have to run hard, you have to hit hard, and you have to cover your mate's backside.

I kept reminding myself: "This is what we're going to do."

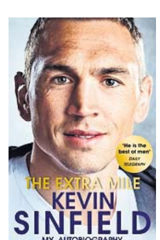
Across all sports, every defensive system has flaws that can be unpicked, but how hard you work for each other, and how you cover your mate's backside, is crucial. That's the bit I tried hardest to get across to the Leicester lads.

That 2021-22 season, my first, produced an impressive array of results. We won 20 of our 24 games and conceded only 52 tries – eight fewer than the next best team, Saracens.

In the play-off semi-finals we beat Northampton Saints to earn a place at Twickenham against Saracens. They were formidable. George Ford, the season's leading points scorer, left the field after twenty-three minutes to be replaced by Freddie Burns, and it was Freddie's last-minute drop goal that earned us our first Premiership title for almost a decade.

It was odd, in the afterglow of that win, to think I might have left the club after just three days and not come back.

The Extra Mile is published by Century £20 Hardback; £13 Audiobook; £9.99 Ebook. Hear Kevin Sinfield in conversation in Manchester 23 May; York 24 May; Leeds 25 May, London 30 May. Tickets at waterstones.com/events.





Sinfield carries Burrow over line

For nearly three years, Kevin Sinfield has been carrying the cause of Rob Burrow, his former team-mate who is suffering from motor neurone disease, through a series of brutal endurance challenges. Yesterday in Leeds he took the next step, carrying his friend over the line of the inaugural Rob Burrow Marathon.

Aided by support runners and a







Sinfield lifts Burrow over the line at Headingley after, inset, taking his friend around the course. Below, Burrow's wife Lindsey finishes the race

lightweight wheelchair, Sinfield pushed Burrow for the 26.2 miles of the city's first marathon in 20 years.

It was not quite the seven ultramarathons in seven days that Sinfield undertook in November in aid of his former Leeds Rhinos team-mate, but the pair nonetheless crossed the line in an impressive time of 4hr 10min.

There were emotional scenes at the finish as Sinfield lifted Burrow — who was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in 2019 — out of his wheelchair and carried him across the line.

Sinfield, the England rugby union defence coach, has raised more than £8 million for motor neurone disease charities since Burrow was diagnosed, primarily through running challenges.

In late 2020, he ran seven marathons in seven days and the following year he completed a 101-mile ultramarathon in under 24 hours.

"The support on the street has been amazing," he said after the race. "Roll on 2024. To have 12,500 people running in Rob's name, all for different charities and causes, is wonderful and I know how proud Rob is of it."

Burrow's wife, Lindsey, also finished the marathon in just over five hours as more than £1 million was raised for charity.

"I've done naff-all training for it," Rob Burrow jokingly told the BBC before the race. "The world record is 2½ hours. Come on Kev, we can do it."

Leading article, page 25

We know the brain is precious. There are things we can do to mitigate risk

I'm someone who's been knocked out a number of times and I'm conscious of some of the challenges that may confront me and others down the track. But I wouldn't change any of that, wouldn't swap my life in rugby.

Perhaps a professional player could say with some justification, "I didn't know what I was signing up for at the time." But I don't think you can then use that retrospectively in potentially the wrong way.

How the sport might look in five or ten years is something I'm conscious of every single day. Whatever role I've had in rugby I've tried to think first and foremost about what it's like to be a player and always to put myself in their boots.

On the training pitch and in games I know what we're asking them to do. My thoughts always revolve around balancing risk. If I ever thought we weren't doing it with safety uppermost then it would be time for me to move away from rugby coaching altogether.

We have a duty to look after those coming after us and make the game we pass on to future generations as safe as possible. Right through the coaching set-up at Leicester the club was aware of players' lives. I won't say players' welfare, because it's much deeper than that. I'll say players' lives, because lives are at stake.

They may not be now, in the game being played in front of you, but in ten or 20 years' time the ramifications might creep up on people.

The attitude to repetitive contact has changed massively in recent years. At Leicester we were well below the maximum level of physical impacts allowed in the protocols. We could get enough good stuff done without having to 'go live' (replicate match intensity) every single day. I don't believe in doing that on the training field. I never have. In rugby league when I was a player it wasn't something I believed was necessary to bring you to a peak for a game.

Training sessions where people smash into each other relentlessly are history. The bulk of the defence work we do is with the tackle shield, very rarely body on body. Even then we never do more than four-minute blocks. I believe in quality over quantity: a couple of good, technical tackles, then move on.

In the past I was part of rugby league sessions where you were knocking the stuffing out of each other. But that changed significantly in league and now rugby union is following the same path.

I'm fully aware of the litigation being pursued by ex-players in rugby league. I played just short of 600 games and am cognisant of how many bangs on the head I'd have received in that time.

Twice I was knocked out cold. I can still remember waking up from those blows. I'm aware of what could befall me later in life. But equally I'm not inclined to retrospectively challenge a sport when I'm not sure the sport itself knew the risks or consequences. The medical science – or evidence – wasn't necessarily there.

We've always known how precious the brain is, and that injuries can be serious, but it's only in the last few years that the awareness has reached a level where structural change is made urgent by the science. We need more work on it.

There are some potential benefits to the spectacle itself. If collisions and bulk become less of a factor in the game then players might become a bit lighter and quicker. The Rob Burrow type of player might come back into fashion. Those who can no longer fall back on physicality may need a new super skill to secure their place in the sport.

At the Rugby Football League I was in on a number of calls with and swapped emails with Professor Willie Stewart of the University of Glasgow, who'd been doing work on brain injuries in Scottish rugby union. Willie's a great guy who convened a seminar for rugby league players through our past players' association.

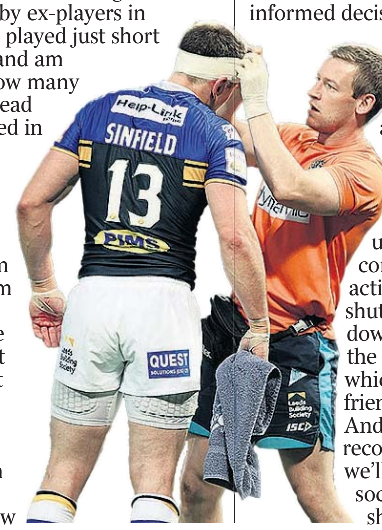
I sat in on it because I helped put it together. We had 20 players join us on Zoom. Only 20 players from the last fifty years. And none of the 70 taking legal action were on that call. Some might not have known it was on, or possibly were out of reach. But we have to help one another as well as ourselves.

The encouraging part of Willie's work was his message that you can do things to mitigate risk. He listed ten environmental factors, such as regular exercise, a balanced lifestyle and good sleep patterns, to either offset the dangers or change the path completely. He put a lot of minds at rest – mine included.

One of his reassurances was that just because you lose your keys, or forget somebody's name, it doesn't mean you have dementia. It can just mean you're getting older and your mind and body aren't working as well as they did. Reductions in mental sharpness are issues not only for rugby players but people in all walks of life in middle age.

It's a shame more people didn't hear his talk.

Yes, all leagues and contact sports could probably do more, but in the last couple of years both league and union have substantially increased their welfare provision. They've had to. The lesson from injury and litigation in the NFL in America suggested it was bound to land on rugby's governing bodies too. The more evidence we have, the more informed decisions will be.



A concern for me is that we might change rugby beyond recognition or close an avenue that gives boys and girls a chance to play a team sport with incredible values. There are unintended consequences with most activities in life. But if we shut rugby down we close down the environment and the culture I grew up in, and which gave me such great friendships and memories. And if we stop rugby as a recognisable contact sport we'll only create another societal beast in some shape or form.

I'm sorry for letting down Arsenal fans, says Arteta

CONTINUED FROM BACK

the second half, I don't know what happened. It feels like there is no hope now."

Mikel Arteta, the Arsenal manager, apologised for letting down the supporters, many of whom left before the final whistle. The coach, whose frustration boiled over as he was booked for complaining about refereeing decisions, was critical of his players' attitude and hinted about summer changes.

"I hate the feeling of letting people down when they are expecting something, that's the biggest regret I have and I have to apologise for that," Arteta said. "We fought really hard to be in the position and we were in a critical moment to keep hoping and digging for that dream. My feeling is frustration."

Arteta refused to blame Arsenal's flat display on City's win at Goodison Park and pinpointed his side wasting chances in the first half and failing to come to terms with Brighton's man-marking.

Gabriel Martinelli left the stadium wearing a protective boot after suffering a heavy challenge from Moisés Caicedo, and Kieran Tierney, the left back, clutched his hamstring at the end.

"I feel that we gave the game away in the second half and when you have to play in these moments you cannot do what we did," Arteta added. "We have to look. If a team is capable of doing that when it comes to the biggest stage, there's a lot of things to analyse because it cannot happen. Any team can punish you and that would happen in the Champions League too."

He said he would need several days to digest the manner of his and the team's performance, given they had played well in winning 2-0 away to Newcastle United a week earlier. Arsenal were poised to move eight points clear at the top when they blew a 2-0 lead over Liverpool last month — and dropped points against West Ham United and bottom-placed Southampton last month.

"You have to make the analysis of yourself first before looking at anybody else and that's what I have to do," he said. "Last week we really did what we needed to win in certain moments and today, completely the opposite. In the second half we started to lose runners, lost a lot of duels, and conceded two really poor goals. We had no answer."

Brighton bounced back after a 5-1 home defeat by Everton last Monday and have games in hand to try to secure a Europa League place for the first time. Roberto De Zerbi ran down the touchline to celebrate his side's second goal and slid on his knees at 3-0.

He showed players a video of the basketball legend Michael Jordan to explain why mentality was paramount for winners, after they lost to Everton, when he felt they were still celebrating a win over Manchester United days earlier.

"I don't like basketball but I love the mentality of the champion in every sport and I am hungry to learn something," De Zerbi said. "We deserve to qualify for Europe. I want to dream. I want to reach the impossible target. Now with Brighton."

The Game
16 pages of pure football
Inside T2



Masterful Ford guides Sale to their

Sale Sharks	21
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Will Kelleher



They are partying like it is 2006 at Sale Sharks — with George Ford leading the disco. Alex Sanderson's Sale made their first Gallagher Premiership final in 17 years with a tense, tight and terrific win over the reigning champions Leicester Tigers. Ford took 11 points in a supreme showing.

He is in a second consecutive final, having guided Leicester there himself last year. It was his tactical class, fooling Leicester with cute spiral-bomb kicks, neat passing and superb goal-kicking that won this game, but many Sharks were heroes in front of a rare sell-out crowd.

It was fitting that the northern boys saw Sale through. Tom Roebuck and Arron Reed scored the tries, and Joe Carpenter was brilliant at full back. Sanderson now has a chance to beat his old boss, Mark McCall, and team, Saracens, on May 27 at Twickenham. That will be a special day, but it is worth savouring this one first.

"I couldn't be prouder of them," Sanderson said. "They drank deep from the well. It's a special group. They stuck to the task and George drove that well. He was a pocket of calm amid the chaos."

Leicester played their part in a belting game. What a job Richard Wigglesworth has done, left stranded by the departures of Steve Borthwick and Kevin Sinfield in December but still leading the Tigers to a semi-final. He leaves for England, alongside coaches Aled Walters and Tom Harrison, with an enormously enhanced reputation.

"It was tight, wasn't it?" Wigglesworth said. "The best team won. I've loved it and made friends for life. It's been an absolute privilege to lead the club."

The day belonged emphatically to Sale, though. They thought this was the first time they had sold out the AJ Bell Stadium. It has been such a struggle to fill the ground since they moved here in 2012 that the club are not entirely sure what the full capacity is. They settled on it being about 12,000.

Often soulless and understated, the place was transformed by this semi-final, with fans packing the concourse, lining up four-deep to greet the arrival of the buses. Fans of both sides chanted through the warm-ups for an hour. The match lived up to the hype as the blood-and-thunder semi.

It was fiery, feisty and full of fizz — even with a low score-count. The travelling Tigers packed an unofficial away end, and were raucous.

Leicester had the early ear of referee Wayne Barnes, winning five consecutive penalties. Jimmy Gopperth, a month short of his 40th birthday and in late for Handré Pollard, who had pulled a calf, missed the first kick but nailed the second from a similar position, then another penalty.

The match then spat into life, with Cameron Henderson taking issue when Tom Curry upended Hanro Liebenberg around a ruck. The Scottish lock gave away a penalty for starting a brawl.

From that position, after George Ford had kicked deep, Sale eventually scored. Akker van der Merwe first dropped one short of the line, but next Sale went right with Rob du Preez finding Carpenter out wide. He flung a pass to Roebuck, through Freddie Steward's hands, and the wing went in.

Ford hit the wide conversion, and there were no more points in the remaining 20 minutes of the half, but it was compelling. Poor Ben Curry

Tight defence, flowing attack – Farrell's men are strong favourites

Stuart Barnes



To kick or not to kick? That was the question. Leicester Tigers, the now dethroned champions, came up with the wrong answers in Sale and duly paid the price. There was no doubting the heart and soul of this tremendous club but the ability to think, and act, clearly under pressure in comparison with George Ford's Sale Sharks cost them the opportunity of a repeat final with Saracens.

Instead Ford will face up to his schoolboy friend and adult rival Owen Farrell. The England captain delivered the best individual display of the Premiership weekend against Northampton Saints on Saturday. Saracens' director of rugby, Mark McCall, said of his skipper, post match: "He's so in control of his game, it's phenomenal." He did not put a foot wrong but more impressive was the tactical control he exercised.

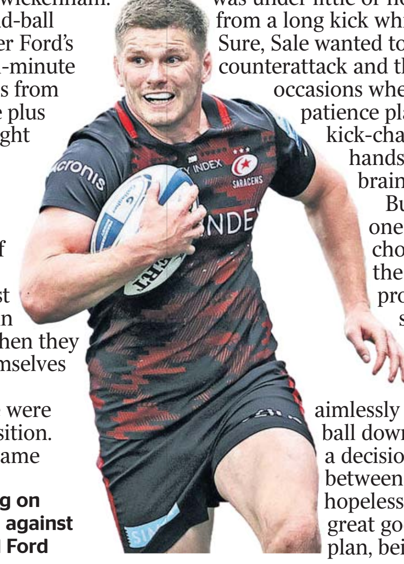
Ford was very good but nowhere near Farrell's level of 80-minute performance, although when it mattered he made measured decisions and turned them into great options with the absolute quality of the plays.

With 12 minutes remaining and the scoreboard five points in Sale's favour, Wayne Barnes gave the home side a penalty, wide out and between the ten-metre and halfway line. The kick to the corner was the easier option. But Ford pointed to the posts and sent the ball soaring through them, en route to Twickenham and the final.

Leicester still had time and they had a penalty of their own with plenty of time on the clock. It was a much easier kick than Ford's but the Tigers went for the corner. Missing touch and putting the ball in goal was embarrassing the once, but when Jack van Poortvliet repeated the mistake two minutes from the final whistle you knew the Leicester heart was in healthier condition than the head. Poise and precision had disappeared and with it, a trip to Twickenham.

So much for the dead-ball decisions. Let's consider Ford's beautifully struck 76th-minute kick that landed inches from touch after a 50-metre plus spiral. His side were eight points ahead but struggling with a few injuries. The only sensible choice was to bite off a vast chunk of territory. Ford did it magnificently. Contrast again with the Tigers in the last ten minutes when they were trying to get themselves back into the game.

Unsurprisingly, Sale were content to kick for position. Leicester had a rigid game plan. It seemed immune to either the scoreboard or the match clock.



Farrell's stellar showing on Saturday set up a final against his old friend and rival Ford

Freddie Steward, England's full back, was under little or no pressure from a long kick which he caught. Sure, Sale wanted to tempt a counterattack and there are occasions when the loss of patience plays into the kick-chase side's hands, boots and brains.

But this was not one of them. He chose to mark the kick. To calm proceedings, steady himself and let Sale reset their system as he aimlessly punted the ball downfield… It was a decision somewhere between hapless and hopeless. Here was the great god, the game plan, being followed

first final in 17 years

JAN KRUGER/GETTY IMAGES; DAVID ROGERS/GETTY IMAGES; TOM SANDBERG/SHUTTERSTOCK







Sale Sharks' Roebuck goes over for their first try of the semi-final against Leicester Tigers at AJ Bell Stadium; above, Ford celebrates after a game that he controlled, claiming 11 points to lead Sale to a place in the final against Saracens where they will have to do without captain Ben Curry, right, who suffered an injury to his left hamstring

missed it, though. He was twisted nastily in a ruck, at which he won a turnover, and badly injured his left hamstring. Later he appeared on crutches — a worrying sign with the World Cup coming up. Next Dan Cole was fuming when he was yellow-carded for a high hit on Van der Merwe.

Sale nearly scored through Rob du Preez on the blind side straight afterwards, but Ben Youngs clattered him into touch just in time. Tigers were defending for their lives, but Youngs was removed with a head injury after that tackle. A twitchier referee might have sent off Youngs or Cole, but it was a relief that Barnes kept his cool. The second half started cagily, until Manu Tuilagi smashed Harry Potter's rib-cage. Ford had hit a spiral-bomb kick and Potter caught it just before Tuilagi rearranged his torso. Sale won a penalty at that breakdown, and Ford popped over the penalty to extend their lead.

Would Leicester find the key moment of class? Dan Kelly threw a superb wide pass to Potter, with penalty advantage, for the Tigers' try. Gopperth converted, but that was not the clincher.

Ford equalised with a penalty straight away when Carpenter had been taken out in the air. He then found the game-changing moment.

His next spiral-bomb kick caused havoc as the usually safe Freddie Steward fumbled it backwards then panicked and cleared badly.

From that position Sale built. A little nudge in behind by Rob du Preez bundled Jack van Poortvliet into touch by his goalline; then from the maul Sale found space wide on the left, and Ford's scudding pass bounced off the turf, checked the defence and skidded to Reed, who scored. That was that.

Raffi Quirke nearly sealed it, latching on to a break from Reed after Joe Heyes had fumbled outside the Sale 22, but the final pass for the scrum half's try was agonisingly forward.

No matter. Sale's front row blitzed the scrum and won a penalty against the head. Ford stepped up and kicked it from halfway. Crucially, that pushed Sale out to an eight-point lead they kept until the end.

By full-time 10,000 of the 12,000 were singing "Na, na, na, na Say-ull" to *Hey Jude* like drunks on the dancefloor, giddy that their boys had finally done it. With two weeks until the final, Sale then went out on the beers themselves. How big would the party be? "Huge," replied Sanderson, with a can of San Miguel already in hand.

Scorers: Sale: Tries T Roebuck (20min), A Reed (64). **Con** G Ford. **Pens** G Ford 2.
Leicester: Tries H Potter (53). **Con** J Gopperth. **Pens** J Gopperth 2.
Sale J Carpenter; T Roebuck, R du Preez, M Tuilagi (S James 55), A Reed; G Ford, G Warr (R Quirke 51); S McIntyre (B Rodd 47), A van der Merwe (E Ashman 55), N Schonert (C Oosthuizen 47), J-L du Preez, J Hill, T Curry (J Beaumont 73), B Curry (D du Preez 28; T O'Flaherty 74), J Ross.
Leicester F Steward; A Watson, M Scott (G Porter, 67), D Kelly, H Potter; J Gopperth (C Atkinson 69), B Youngs (J van Poortvliet 37); T West (J Cronin, 52), J Montoya, D Cole (sin-bin 36-46; J Heyes, 58), G Martin, C Henderson (H Wells 69), H Liebenberg, T Reffell, J Wiese (O Cracknell 72).
Referee W Barnes. **Attendance** 12,000.

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to sporting oblivion. Steward is an experienced international yet could not think clearly for himself. Minutes later Van Poortvliet did the same. Leicester were playing to plan and to hell if it was ridding them of even the most fleeting of chances to win.

Sale, in a similar situation, would have sought inspiration through broken-field running. While Anthony Watson looked elusive for the Tigers, it was the uncapped Sale duo of Tom Roebuck and, in particular, Joe Carpenter, who caught the eye. The pair were unafraid to use the ball kicked to them as an opportunity to unleash all-out attack.

Roebuck's first-half try from his mate's superb miss-pass was no less than the duo deserved. Twice the relentless Leicester box-kicking strategy regained first-half possession from Carpenter through the boot of England scrum half Ben Youngs. Nothing out of the usual here. When the ball was regathered the second time the instinct was to kick again. More of the same followed from his replacement, Van Poortvliet. In the main, Leicester's familiar strategy of playing without rather than with the ball suited Sale.

Gallagher Premiership final
Sale Sharks v Saracens, Saturday May 27, Twickenham, TV: BT Sport, ITV

Saracens will not make the same error. For a start, they have evolved into the best attacking team in England. There was a time when they played a game not dissimilar to yesterday's semi-final. On Saturday Farrell admitted Saracens' success was "built on the foundations of a good kicking game and defence".

While he also asserted there has been much more to them than kick-chase for a long time, this is the breakthrough year when they have evolved into a Rolls Royce of an attacking team. Sale, with Gus Warr less impressive as a box-kicker than a speedy passer, will want to think two or three times before they take the aerial route at Twickenham.

Alex Goode and the Saracens counterattack thrive on the ball being handed over to them. If Alex Sanderson is to base his game plan on kicking and territory (old Saracens style he knows as well as anyone), Ford will have to make every punt as good as the spiralling 76th-minute crossfield kick.

Saracens look the strongest of favourites to win the final next week. They have tightened their defence while allowing free reign for the imagination of their attacking game. Sale are fiercely committed and muscular but they lack the variety of last year's runners-up.

If Farrell and Ford cancel out each other, Saracens will win. They have a much better structure to their game. It will take one of Ford's finest hours — and then some -— to deprive the best team in England of their just rewards.

Comeback kings Saracens have title in their sights

London side have twice won the final after defeat the previous year. A third chance beckons, writes **Alex Lowe**

In the immediate aftermath of their Heineken Champions Cup quarter-final defeat by La Rochelle, in which Levani Botia had wreaked havoc at the breakdown, Mark McCall set Saracens a challenge. "We have five weeks until we play a home semi-final in the Premiership," the club's director of rugby said. "We have five weeks to learn the things we need to from this game."

Saracens pride themselves on how they deal with setbacks and respond to adversity. Three times they have lost a Gallagher Premiership final. After the first two occasions, in 2010 and 2014, they returned to Twickenham the following year and won the title.

This is the third, after last year's defeat by Leicester Tigers, and Saracens will grace the showpiece occasion once again, having defeated Northampton Saints 38-15 and achieved exactly what they set out to five weeks ago.

Northampton are the most dangerous attacking team in the Premiership. They thrive on generating lightning-quick ball and using their impish half backs, Alex Mitchell and Fin Smith, to make quick decisions and catch out a discombobulated defence.

But on Saturday they ran into a Saracens team who delivered, in McCall's words, their "strongest defensive performance for years". Northampton's ball-carriers were wrapped up in two-man tackles. Saracens turned the ball over nine times in the first half alone. Ben Earl, the flanker, prowled ravenously to poach three of them.

3
Saracens have been beaten in three Premiership finals (2010, 2014 and 2022) and followed the first two with victory the next year

There was plenty to admire about Saracens' attacking play too, not least from the ageless Alex Goode and the supreme Owen Farrell, who each set up a try for Sean Maitland with an exquisite, deft kick. That score was particularly galling for Northampton given the Scotland wing was fortunate to still be on the field after a reckless collision in the air with George Furbank, who received a blow to the head in the process. Maitland may yet be cited, if the incident after 37 seconds was deemed to be a red card offence.

Northampton officials were stunned by the lack of a card from the referee, just as they were infuriated that Farrell was permitted to kick a penalty long after the shot clock had reached zero. But those calls went against them and it was they who ended up discombobulated; best evidenced by Alex Waller conceding a penalty and dropping the ball at the feet of Ivan van Zyl, allowing the Saracens scrum half to take a quick tap and score. By the time Northampton managed to show anything like the best of themselves, during a two-try spell in the second half, they were 24-3 down.

"That defensive performance laid the foundation for the victory," McCall said. "We were physical. We got control of a very good attacking team. The players felt in control. We were able to slow the ball down in the first few phases and backed that up with some physical shots. Against La Rochelle, we weren't good enough at the breakdown. We weren't urgent enough, we weren't aggressive enough, we weren't low enough. I know La Rochelle are a great side. I have to credit our players, we have taken the lessons since then."

The last challenge of the year is to apply those lessons in the final against Sale Sharks, who will be much more like La Rochelle than Northampton in their desire to rock Saracens with power at the breakdown. Earl, Nick Isiekwe and Jackson Wray have been excellent of late but Saracens lack depth and brute strength in the back row, with Billy Vunipola and Theo McFarland injured and Andy Christie questionable.

Sale have Tom and Ben Curry playing so effectively in tandem either side of Jono Ross, the abrasive No 8, with Jean-Luc du Preez now operating as a fearsome second row enforcer. George Ford pulls the strings as one of the best strategic fly halves in the Premiership.

"It's a massive part of the game," Farrell said. "If you don't look after your breakdown on both sides of the ball then you're going to have trouble. I thought our collision was good, I thought our decision-making around breakdown was very good. That La Rochelle game showed us a lot. It showed we weren't where we were at the start of the season with our attack."

Led by Farrell, Saracens have evolved their attacking game because they are more prepared to play what they see.

Saracens scored five tries in total: two from Maitland, one from Van Zyl and two from Max Malins in another commanding win; the 23-point winning margin matched their average for the past four home play-off victories.

But there is a different attitude this year about how Saracens attack. Where previously they would kick by rote, now they look to see if the space is there to be attacked. There is a greater feeling of joy about their rugby.

This shift was triggered by Farrell, whom McCall described as being "masterful" and "in complete control of his game".

"I'm enjoying it. I love being involved in these occasions," Farrell said. "We've come from a place that was built on solid foundations: a good kicking game and defence. And attack came off the back of that. That started a long time ago, even before I left school. That served us unbelievably well.

"There was always a perception about us — and rightly so at times — that we were this team that just strangled teams, kicked everything and used the driving maul.

"We had patches during a season of going back to fundamentals but at the end of the year we weren't always [playing like that]. Some of the finals we had against Exeter, Clermont — we played rugby.

"We've been ready for a bigger jump this year. We have been ready for a bigger improvement. It's about picking our heads up and looking and seeing if it's on. The way that our forwards are carrying and interlinking between themselves and making dents, makes it easy for us to be able to do that."

Sport



Ford focus on final

Brilliant display drives Sale to Twickenham showpiece

Rugby union, pages 56-57



Sinfield reveals fears

'I felt exposed and incapable of doing the Leicester job'

Book extract, page 54

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND



They think it's all over

Odegaard admits Arsenal have 'no hope' of catching City for title after Brighton thrashing

Arsenal	0
Brighton	3

Gary Jacob

Martin Odegaard admitted Arsenal had "no hope" of catching Manchester City in the race for the Premier League title after their 3-0 capitulation at home to Brighton & Hove Albion.

Second-half goals from Brighton's Julio Enciso, Deniz Undav and Pervis Estupiñán mean that Arsenal have now picked up only nine points from their past seven matches to see their hopes of a first title since 2004 slip away.

City, who beat Everton by the same scoreline before the match at the Emirates kicked off, will secure the first part of a possible Treble if they beat Chelsea at home on Sunday or if Arsenal lose to Nottingham Forest a day earlier.

Odegaard, the Arsenal captain, said on Sky Sports: "It is going to be very difficult now. It is tough to take. It is not a good feeling at the moment. The way we played, particularly in

Continued on page 55

Bukayo Saka grimaces as Arsenal supporters stream out of the Emirates during the loss to Brighton & Hove Albion which all but conceded the Premier League title

Pochettino to sign for three years

Tom Roddy

Mauricio Pochettino is set to fly to London this week to sign a three-year contract to become the new head coach at Chelsea.

Pochettino agreed at the weekend to take over and will be announced by the west London club in the coming days as successor to Graham Potter, who was hired in September on a five-year deal.

It is understood that Chelsea are to return to the common contract length of three years with the second permanent head coach hired by the Todd Boehly-Clearlake Capital ownership.

Pochettino, 51, is expected to be joined by his long-time assistant Jesús Pérez, first-team coach Miguel D'Agostino, goalkeeping coach Toni Jiménez and his son Sebastiano, a sports scientist.

The former Tottenham Hotspur and Paris Saint-Germain manager will take over at the end of the season from caretaker manager Frank Lampard. He has been out of work since leaving PSG after winning the Ligue 1 title last year.

Chelsea have won one of eight games under Lampard since he took charge following the departure of Potter on April 2 after seven months in the role.

The side will not be competing in European football next season, with Chelsea 11th in the table after Saturday's 2-2 draw with Nottingham Forest. They are seeking to avoid their lowest finish since 1993-94 (14th) but face a tricky final three games, away to Manchester City and Manchester United before hosting Newcastle United.

Pochettino's in-tray, The Game, pages 8-9

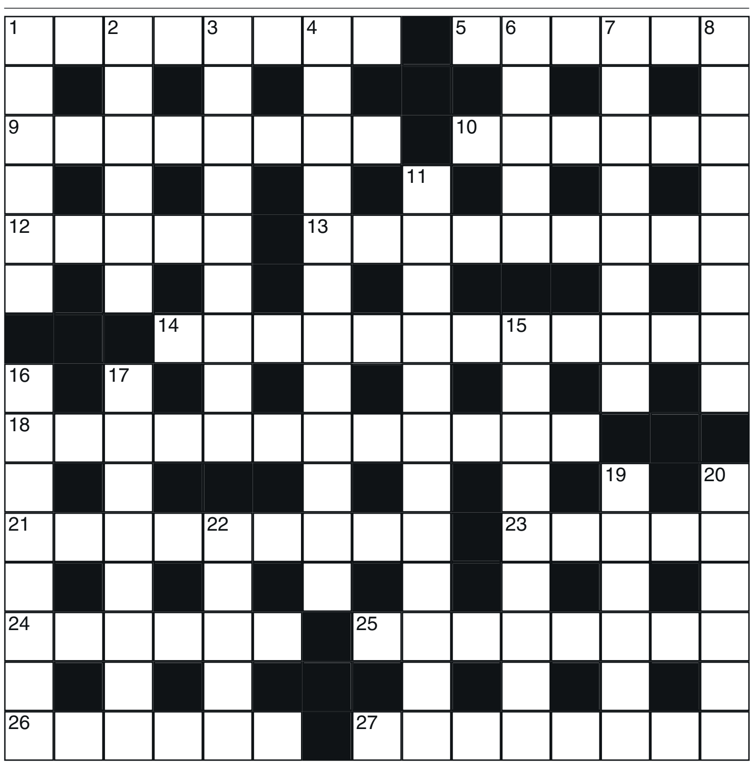
The Game

16 pages of pure football

Inside T2



Times Crossword 28,603



ACROSS

1 Short man, old and grim, making nasty smell (8)
5 Plant, for all to see, chewed by dangerous reptiles (6)
9 Sponger in airborne unit's barracks, perhaps? (8)
10 Not just amusement parks have ditched their extreme characters (6)
12 Follow English girl round back of barn (5)
13 Immature supporter wearing trendy hat (9)
14 Peer rarely seen to support female hugging old copper (12)
18 Oddly another ten men missing a bishop's installation? (12)
21 Resident's daughter embraced by popular Dickens character (9)
23 Resinous substance the Spanish mostly give out (5)
24 Like image of island shaped like a dunce's cap? (6)
25 Physical discomfort of beast of burden crossing narrow ravine (8)
26 Artificial offering from keepers at zoo (6)
27 Overwhelm sister during current appointment (8)

DOWN

1 Little darling's fit of sulks upset dog at first (6)
2 Old string-player lines up for inclusion in register (6)
3 Terrible couple keeping son in worn-out state (9)
4 In France a slim monarch left Nancy at last, foolishly (12)
6 Arrest hooligan finally caught in wrecked building (3,2)
7 Machair's extraordinary drawing power (8)
8 Soldier's strange complex involving hallucinatory drug (8)
11 Note from Heather about a knight with roots on another continent (4-8)
15 Flower teacher planted outside a new food shop (9)
16 Bloke this person's employed to carry one's case (8)
17 Hard-working breeding establishments concealing evidence of debt (8)
19 Family groups delivering information on time (6)
20 Paper that ultimately children required (6)
22 Novelist or poet using elevated material (5)

Prize solution 28,596

M	A	C	A	B	R	E		S	T	A	N	D	U	P
I		O		A		J		O		M		U		A
F	I	L	I	G	R	E	E	D		E	A	S	E	L
F		O		E		C		D		R		T		I
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D	R	E	S	D	E	N		N	A	M	E	D	A	Y

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THE TIMES
thegame
MONDAY MAY 15 2023
All the action from the weekend

PAGES 8-9
Task facing Poch laid bare as he takes reins at Stamford Bridge

PAGE 12
Kerr inspires Chelsea's FA Cup triumph in front of record crowd



GUNDOGAN CONTROLS THE BALL ON HIS THIGH



IT LOOPS UP BEHIND HIM

It's Silky Gundogan

Captain's improvised flick and direct free kick power City to the brink of title — but can Guardiola convince him to stay? PAGES 4-5



HE FLICKS PAST PICKFORD TO MAKE IT 1-0

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER BRADLEY ORMESHER; JASON CAIRNDUFF/REUTERS

Humbled Arsenal are forced to accept their fate







Estupiñán rounds off the scoring, right, after his cross set up Enciso, above, for the Brighton opener. Left, Undav lobs Ramsdale for the second goal while the scoreboard told its own story as fans drifted out

Arsenal	Brighton
0	3
	Enciso 51, Undav 86 Estupiñán 90+6

HOW CITY CAN WIN TITLE

- Manchester City will be crowned champions on Saturday night if Arsenal lose at Nottingham Forest
- If Arsenal draw, City will need a point at home to Chelsea on Sunday
- If Arsenal win, City will also need to win

RATINGS

Arsenal (4-3-3): A Ramsdale — B White 5, J Kiwior 6, Gabriel 5, K Tierney 5 — M Odegaard 6 (E Smith Rowe 76min), Jorginho 7 (G Partey 60, 4), G Xhaka 6 (R Nelson 60, 5) — B Saka 7, G Jesus 6 (E Nketiah 76), G Martinelli 5 (L Trossard 19, 6).
Booked Arteta (not on pitch), Partey.

Brighton (4-2-3-1) J Steele 6 — M Caicedo 7, L Dunk 7, R Colwill 7, P Estupiñán 7 — P Gross 7, B Gilmour 7 (D Welbeck 60, 6) — J Enciso 8 (D Undav 82), A Mac Allister 8, K Mitoma 8 — E Ferguson 8.
Booked Estupiñán, Gross.
Referee A Madley. **Attendance** 60,139.

HENRY WINTER



Chief Football Writer
At Emirates Stadium

Arsenal players were on their knees, crestfallen, down and all but out, seeing the Premier League trophy drift even further away. Roberto De Zerbi was on his knees, sliding down the touchline, celebrating a third goal for his rampant, relentless Brighton & Hove Albion side, and Europa League football drawing nearer. Two contrasting images encapsulated this extraordinary day.

Arsenal were as meek as De Zerbi's side were strong. It felt like all the fight drained from Arsenal before kick-off when they saw Manchester City's victory away to Everton. How do you catch the unstoppable? Arsenal fans lost much of their usual defiance. Even the Ashburton Army briefly looked all drummed out midway through the first half.

When Brighton's second goal went in, after 86 minutes, Arsenal fans started streaming to the exits, even though their team needed them even more, even though there was likely to be substantial stoppage time because of Brighton time-wasting and six substitutions (eight minutes were soon signalled). It was as if Arsenal had accepted their fate. The title was staying at the Etihad.

One moment midway through the second half embodied Brighton's tigerish attitude, which reflected De Zerbi's specific tactics to stifle Arsenal's creativity, bringing the away side's deserved victory and the downfall of Mikel Arteta's side. His captain, Martin Odegaard, so often the springboard for their attacks, received possession and tried to turn. He was immediately ambushed by Pascal Gross, Danny Welbeck and Evan Ferguson. Brighton hunted in packs. Arsenal succumbed one by one.

Brighton are a joy to watch. De Zerbi infuses his players with such energy and belief. He is so positive. Even when leading through Julio Enciso's goal after 51 minutes, De Zerbi's relentless appetite for more attacking led him to remove a defensive midfield player, Billy Gilmour, for a centre forward in Welbeck. Even when the game was over with Deniz Undav's lofted finish after 86 minutes, De Zerbi urged his team forward, and they added a third through Pervis Estupiñán, a full back.

Their fans duly sang "we're all going on a European tour", and the club's stewardship, by the chairman, Tony Bloom, and the chief executive, Paul Barber, deserves a jaunt across the Channel. They can almost see Europe now. Even if they fail to keep Alexis Mac Allister and Moisés Caicedo, outstanding here, from the respective clutches of Liverpool and Arsenal, Brighton will keep recruiting well, keep developing well and keep being a role model for other clubs.

Arsenal could have done with Caicedo's bite and adventure. Whether at right back, central midfield or on the wing, Caicedo was superb. His touch was certain, his self-belief even more so. As Brighton dominated, their 3,000 sun-drenched fans launched into *Sussex by the Sea*. Arsenal were simply all at sea, and sinking.

The permutations are simple, and smiling on City: they are champions if Arsenal lose away to Nottingham Forest on Saturday, if Arsenal draw and City take at least a point against Chelsea on Sunday, or if they beat Chelsea. It is close to over.

When the heat was on most, Arsenal's record read DDDLWWL, a painful contrast to City's WWWWWWW. Those who rushed to buy tickets on the exchanges for Arsenal's final game of the season, at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers, will find they have paid spectacularly over the odds for a dead rubber.

There will be many moments when Arsenal reflect ruefully on the three draws in mid-April, when Granit Xhaka awoke the passion within Liverpool by squaring up to Trent Alexander-Arnold; when Thomas Partey lost the ball to Declan Rice, and Bukayo Saka missed a penalty away to West Ham United; when Aaron Ramsdale gifted possession to Southampton's Carlos Alcaraz.

They will look back with frustration on William Saliba's back injury, suffered in the Europa League against Sporting Lisbon, and also the time Arteta took to start the hugely promising Jakub Kiwior ahead of Rob Holding. They will also be frustrated by this meek performance.

Josh Kroenke, the son of Arsenal's owner, Stan, watched the players troop disconsolately from the field, and then marched up the stairs. Arsenal's squad need strengthening, and to have a tougher mindset at key moments.

Arsenal should not look back in anger. They have played some magical football this season, deserve praise for pushing City so close, have qualified for the Champions League and will be even stronger next season, especially if Rice arrives. Saka has enjoyed another fine season, and been so good that opponents have clearly targeted him. Estupiñán was eventually booked for fouling Saka, and then promptly repeated the offence, leaping with the winger without looking at the ball. At some point officials are going to have to discuss whether they are prepared to protect players such as Saka properly.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City	35	27	4	4	92	31	61	**85**
Arsenal	36	25	6	5	83	42	41	**81**
Newcastle	35	18	12	5	63	31	32	**66**
Man Utd	35	20	6	9	51	41	10	**66**
Liverpool	35	18	8	9	67	42	25	**62**
Brighton	34	17	7	10	66	45	21	**58**
Tottenham	36	17	6	13	65	59	6	**57**
Aston Villa	36	17	6	13	48	44	4	**57**
Brentford	36	13	14	9	54	45	9	**53**
Fulham	36	15	6	15	52	49	3	**51**
Chelsea	35	11	10	14	36	41	-5	**43**
Crystal Palace	36	11	10	15	37	46	-9	**43**
Wolves	36	11	7	18	30	52	-22	**40**
Bournemouth	36	11	6	19	37	69	-32	**39**
West Ham	36	10	7	19	38	52	-14	**37**
Nottm Forest	36	8	10	18	36	67	-31	**34**
Everton	36	7	11	18	32	56	-24	**32**
Leeds	36	7	10	19	46	71	-25	**31**
Leicester	35	8	6	21	49	64	-15	**30**
Southmptn (R)	36	6	6	24	31	66	-35	**24**

Arsenal were hardly angels. Kaoru Mitoma rose for an aerial ball and took the full force of the side of Gabriel Martinelli's left elbow in the face. The challenge deserved a proper look from the VAR, Peter Bankes, not a cursory one. It certainly deserved a caution from Andy Madley.

Caicedo exacted some revenge with a foul on Martinelli. He did not get a card but did receive a slap of thanks from Mitoma. Martinelli, who turned his ankle, never recovered and limped off to be replaced by Leandro Trossard. Brighton fans applauded their former player and then cheered every challenge on him. He almost silenced them. Arsenal reacted quickly in transition when robbing Enciso of the ball, ending with Trossard hitting the bar.

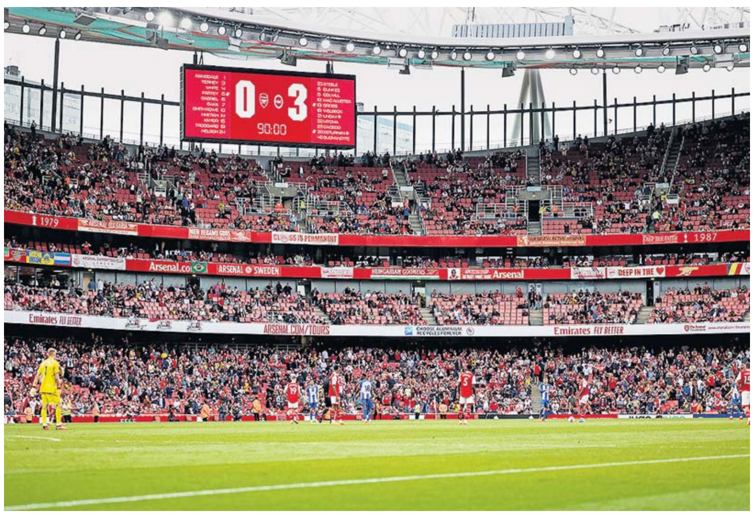
Arsenal found the woodwork unyielding and unforgiving. Odegaard's shot clipped the post. But Brighton were growing in control, willed on by their demanding head coach. De Zerbi kicked the bench at one point, and threw a water bottle.

His team were soon also on target, taking the lead five minutes into the second half. Levi Colwill, impressing alongside Lewis Dunk, drove the ball

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND







left-footed from the back, releasing Mitoma, who held off Ben White, and played Estupiñán through on the overlap. Kieran Tierney intercepted Estupiñán's cross but cleared only to where it had come from. The Ecuadorean crossed again, sending the ball into the ground, but rising towards Enciso. The Paraguayan headed over the line, and Arsenal immediately had an inquest to establish why he was unmarked.

Arsenal supporters became furious at Brighton's occasional time-wasting, such as when Enciso went off across the field when substituted, rather than walking straight off and taking the long way round to the dugout.

Arteta tried to reclaim the game with his changes. Partey and Reiss Nelson came on for Jorginho and Xhaka. Eddie Nketiah and Emile Smith Rowe replaced Odegaard and Gabriel Jesus. The flow of the game did not change. Ramsdale's pass was met far too casually by Trossard, whose flick was picked off by Gross. Undav took over and calmly lobbed Ramsdale.

Ramsdale then saved well from Undav but Estupiñán played the poacher with the rebound, setting De Zerbi off on his knee slide and, as the final whistle sounded, sending Arsenal slumping to their knees.

Madley wrong to allow early challenges

The expert view

PETER WALTON



Former Premier League referee





A referee can maintain control of a game without brandishing cards. Body language and conversations with players often suffice and there is a directive to allow minor contact.

There are, though, some situations that must lead to a card, regardless of when they occur. Gabriel Martinelli barrelling into Kaoru Mitoma fell into this category, as the Arsenal forward jumped into his opponent while out of control. A booking was needed to tell players this sort of challenge was not acceptable, but he got only a warning.

With the game still in its first five minutes, I suspect Andy Madley, the referee, was trying to give players an opportunity to self-discipline. Instead, he implied that rash collisions would not be punished, and so Brighton & Hove Albion sought retribution. Moisés Caicedo cynically took out Martinelli with a tackle that did not yield a card despite deserving a yellow. To his credit, Madley regained control. Considering the shaky start, he should be commended for his performance thereafter.

TONY CASCARINO



Weekend talking points

Appointing Pochettino is Boehly's best move by far

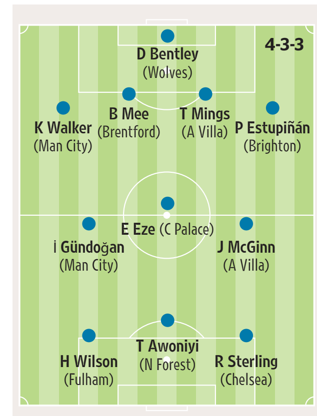
The popular view is that Chelsea are a mess with a whole heap of problems and that the future looks bleak. This has been a terrible season, for sure, but I believe the club have a lot to be optimistic about. And that all stems from the appointment of Mauricio Pochettino.

No one can argue that the new Chelsea owners, the consortium led by Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital, have not made some big mistakes, but getting the Argentinian as their head coach is the best decision they have made by far. When Pochettino takes charge he will have some clear calls to make. He will decide whom he wants to oust from the squad.

Once that is done he will see that he has an array of talent from which he can mould a really good team. What better opportunity is there than to take charge of a team who are sitting 11th in the table and get them to perform? Pochettino is great at developing talent. He proved that at Tottenham Hotspur. He also has the experience of handling big stars at Paris Saint-Germain. Being Argentinian will help to bring the best out of Enzo Fernández. He will get the Mason Mount situation resolved and get a tune out of Mykhailo Mudryk. The boy Noni Madueke looks like he will be a player too.

There will be no European football to get in the way next season. The minimum Pochettino has to achieve is getting Chelsea back into the top four. If he doesn't, he will have failed. But with his expertise and the talent available to him I cannot see that happening.

TEAM OF THE WEEK



Brighton's display was one of season's finest

I cannot hail Brighton & Hove Albion enough. Yesterday's victory away to Arsenal was one of the best performances of the season by any team.

Coming on the back of a 5-1 home defeat by Everton makes it even more remarkable. There was no feeling sorry for themselves. Brighton came out and showed the same energy and desire that they have all season. Whoever is in the team, they always run tirelessly and work so hard — even against Everton, when the stats showed they created chances.

Could Graham Potter's side have played like this? No. Roberto De Zerbi's team have upgraded Potter's conservative approach and their ambitions.

They go to places and never change. They play their own game and in the style of champions.

City's Groundhog Day shows no sign of ending

I'm getting the feeling of Groundhog Day again. Manchester City are on the brink of another title. And what's more, I don't see anyone finishing above them next season either.

Just how do you beat City? I know a handful of teams have managed it this campaign, but I just cannot see there is a game plan that any manager has come up with yet that says: "Here is what you do to have a chance."

Everton tried flooding the midfield yesterday and then stringing five across the back in an effort to keep them out. But when teamwork and strategy doesn't seem to be working for City, they come up with an individual piece of brilliance. Ilkay Gundogan was the man yesterday, with a magical piece of skill for his first goal. And they will just get better next season.

Richarlison has been real disappointment at Spurs

Healthy competition for places is a problem managers like to have. I thought that is what Richarlison would do for Tottenham Hotspur this season. The Brazilian can play across the front three and I believed he would put a bit more pressure on the established trio of Harry Kane, Son Heung-min and Dejan Kulusevski. If anything, those players probably feel their places are more secure than ever. Richarlison has been a real disappointment and wasted his opportunity to start at Aston Villa.

Eze deserves to get a call-up from Southgate

When Gareth Southgate announces his squad for the summer fixtures against Malta and North Macedonia, I hope Eberechi Eze's name is on the list. He offers something England do not have: he is playing as an inside forward who can drive through the middle with the ball in tight situations and get in great "tap-in" positions. He is developing into a dangerous player for Crystal Palace and deserves a chance to show Southgate what he can do. Who knows — he could even make the Euro 2024 squad.

Gundogan and Haaland

Everton	Man City
0	3
	Gundogan 37, 51 Haaland 39

RATINGS

Everton (4-5-1): J Pickford 6 — N Patterson 5, Y Mina 5, J Tarkowski 5, M Holgate 4 (C Coady 55min, 5) — A Iwobi 5, J Garner 6 (D Gray 76), I Gueye 5 (A Onana 55, 5), A Doucouré 6, D McNeil 6 — D Calvert-Lewin 7 (N Maupay 45, 5).
Booked Garner.
Manchester City (4-2-3-1): Ederson 7 — K Walker 9, R Dias 7 (S Gomez 90), A Laporte 7, M Akanji 7 — Rodri 8 (K Phillips 88) I Gundogan 9 (B Silva 77) — R Mahrez 8, J Álvarez 6, P Foden 7 — E Haaland 7 (J Grealish 78).
Referee A Taylor. **Attendance** 39,976.

PAUL JOYCE



Northern Football Correspondent
At Goodison Park

In the early stages, when Manchester City attacks disappeared down cul-de-sacs, Erling Haaland never had a touch, let alone a sight of goal, and Everton were an irritant. Pep Guardiola, dressed all in black, cut a brooding figure.

Half an hour had elapsed at Goodison Park and a mess of a match, exactly the sort of assignment that the visiting side would not have wanted before taking on Real Madrid again, threatened to bring a complicated afternoon.

And then, just like that, normal service was resumed. Two goals in two minutes just before the interval, the first brilliantly taken by the irrepressible Ilkay Gundogan and the second made by him for Haaland — who else? — transformed this fixture into something far more straightforward.

Long before the end this had become little more than a stroll in the sunshine, with Gundogan adding a brilliant free kick to his impressive afternoon's work.

The mark of champions? Almost certainly, as, after Arsenal's loss to Brighton & Hove Albion, City know that a win at home to Chelsea on Sunday will seal a third successive Premier League title and a fifth in six seasons.

The City manager's only complaint concerned the conduct of Yerry Mina, the Everton defender, whom he confronted on the pitch at the final whistle, having grown tired of the Colombian's attempts to wind up first Haaland, then Aymeric Laporte and, finally, Jack Grealish.

Yet the idea that this City team could be diverted from their work by a pantomime villain with a penchant for pinching is frankly preposterous. They combine brawn and brains — most of their players have both — and, when he had calmed down, Guardiola's frenzied celebrations in front of the travelling supporters told their own story.

Everton, in contrast, would have been happy that their goal difference did not take more of a battering.

The home crowd continued to offer throaty backing into the dying embers, but there remain plenty of reasons for Sean Dyche's side to be fearful as they endeavour to extend their top-flight status to a 70th consecutive season.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin's failure to reappear for the second half because of a groin injury was among those reasons. It may have been a cautious measure, with the game seemingly done, but it casts a shadow over their remaining games.

While damage limitation set in for Everton, City's ambition does not have such a ceiling.

Guardiola was hardly tip-toeing across a high wire given the depth of his resources, but his team selection still resembled something of a balancing act before the crunch Champions League semi-final second leg with Real on Wednesday.

Kevin De Bruyne and Bernardo Silva were named as substitutes, although it was the presence of Grealish and John Stones alongside them that highlighted how those two have also become integral to the Treble bid.

However, there was still Haaland. Still Gundogan. And still an unflinching trust in the patient, probing philosophy that has been instilled in them. Class would win out, even if Everton's defending for both first-half goals was awful.

Dwight McNeil inexplicably stood off Riyad Mahrez after 37 minutes and when the cross was delivered Gundogan controlled with his right thigh, swivelled and acrobatically dispatched a volleyed chance.

Nathan Patterson was utterly flummoxed by the speed of the movement.

Two minutes later Gundogan turned creator. Dashing to the byline, he produced a pass from the right that Haaland headed home, with James Tarkowski and Mason Holgate aware of his hulking presence but, at the same time, unable to prevent his 52nd goal of the campaign.

Interestingly, Mina was out of the picture for both strikes, the defender no longer quite so quick to try to make life uncomfortable for his rivals.

After 25 minutes, Haaland mustered one touch. His strike was his third and, by the end, his totals read: seven passes, two shots, one take-on, one foul won, one clearance and one other touch.

For some that would amount to an unsatisfactory afternoon's work, but his aura was everywhere all the same.

Gundogan stated as much afterwards, saying the space that he has found in recent weeks to score is because defenders are always mindful of his team-mate.

That, however, is typical of the German. A selfless, humble performer who makes those around him better but who can also sprinkle stardust, as he showed. If he is to leave in the summer upon the expiry of his contract, then he should be fêted as one of the greats.

The goals that resulted from the awakening of City from their teething troubles merely served to compound a costly miss from Holgate only moments earlier.

Everton's stunning 5-1 victory over Brighton & Hove Albion had owed everything to their rapid counterattacks and, here, they tried to rework those lightening transitions.

Kyle Walker had already come galloping from right back over to the left to halt Abdoulaye Doucouré, and the England defender was covering again to prevent Calvert-Lewin from making full use of James Garner's pass.

From the resulting McNeil corner, a Tarkowski header found Holgate unmarked four yards out. The chance required dexterity from the defender, playing as a left back, but he could not react quickly enough and the moment was gone. His afternoon did not get any better.

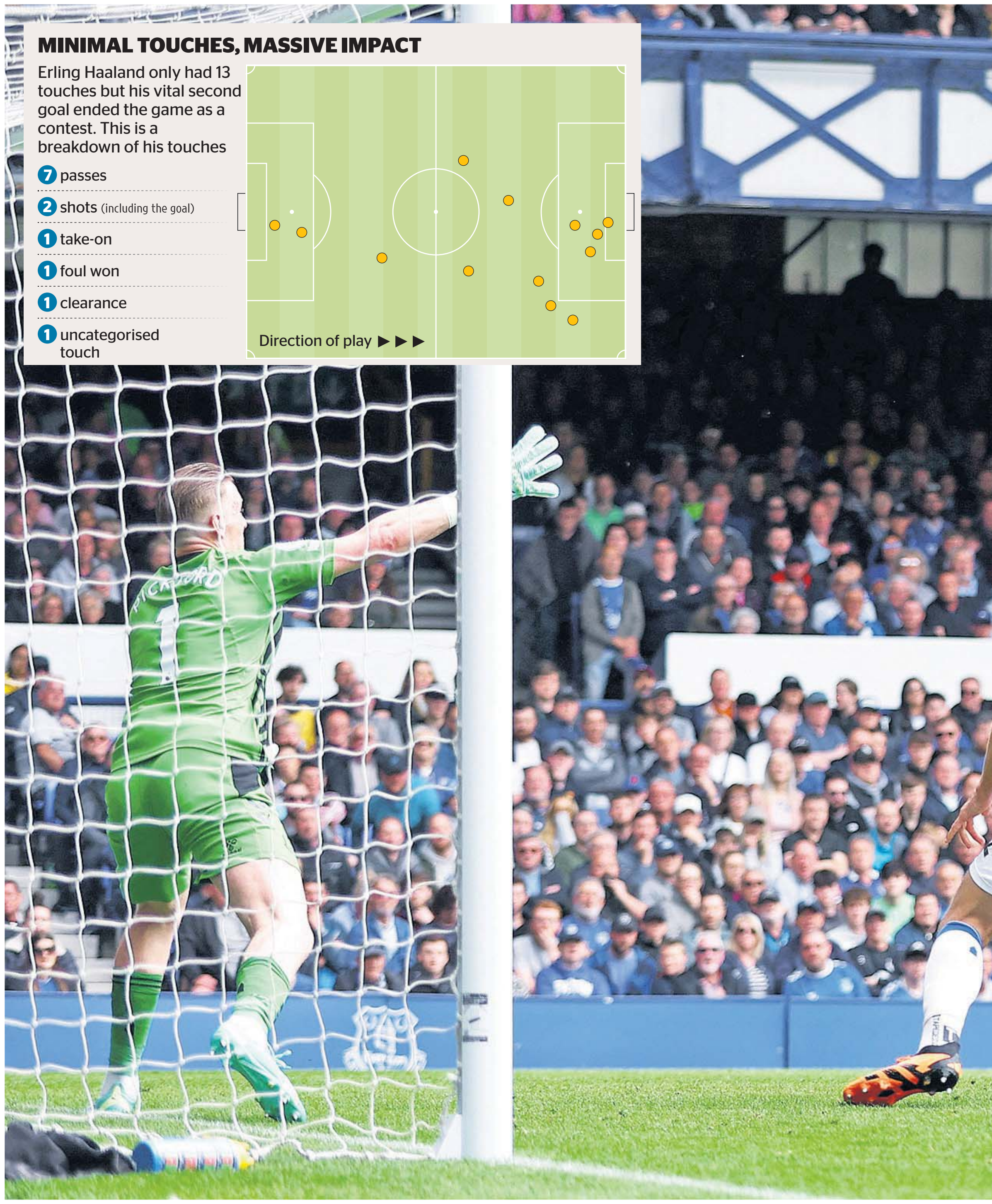
Everton's fortunes would nosedive and the coming week will now be focused on ensuring that Calvert-Lewin is fit for Saturday's trip to face Wolverhampton Wanderers.

The forward has been effective in recent outings since recovering from a two-month layoff with a hamstring injury, providing a focal point the team lack in his absence, and Dyche's refusal to take any risks at 2-0 underlined the player's importance.

It proved a wise decision, with City out of sight immediately after the break. Gundogan assumed responsibility at a free kick after Garner had cleaned out Phil Foden as he sprung through the gears and, thrillingly, curled home.

In the aftermath, Mina and Tarkowski, who later struck the crossbar with a header, bickered with Jordan Pickford.

City, an 11th successive league win safe and the big prize within touching distance, had done all their talking by then.



MINIMAL TOUCHES, MASSIVE IMPACT

Erling Haaland only had 13 touches but his vital second goal ended the game as a contest. This is a breakdown of his touches

- 7 passes
- 2 shots (including the goal)
- 1 take-on
- 1 foul won
- 1 clearance
- 1 uncategorised touch

Direction of play ►►►

Everton sweat over fitness of Calvert-Lewin

PAUL JOYCE

Sean Dyche will check on the fitness of Dominic Calvert-Lewin after admitting that he substituted the Everton striker against his wishes to protect a minor groin issue for the remainder of the relegation run-in.

The Everton manager conceded that he could not see his side overturning a 2-0 half-time deficit at Goodison Park and so opted not to risk Calvert-Lewin, who had mentioned that he felt a tightness in the muscle during the interval.

Calvert-Lewin, 26, has impressed since returning from a hamstring injury and will be crucial to his side's hopes of gaining points in their remaining games, against Wolverhampton Wanderers and Bournemouth, to secure their safety.

"I had to make a call on him because he felt his groin, and tight groins can lead to damaged groins," Dyche said.

"It was as simple as that. It would have been a harder call at 0-0, I have to be honest, but at 2-0 I said: 'Dom, you're coming off.'

"He wanted to give it a go, but I said, 'No, you are coming off.'"

The immediate signs are that he will be fit for the trip to Molineux, which will be important given his replacement, Neal Maupay, has scored only once this season.

Dyche also lost Vitalii Mykolenko on the eve of the game due to an injury and was forced to used the centre half Mason Holgate as a left back.

Everton will drop back into the bottom three should Leicester City beat Liverpool tonight, but Dyche retains faith that his side will be safe.

"Until their goal, I thought they [City] were slow in their play," he said. "They couldn't really do anything of note until their goal."

turn title race into stroll

CARL RECINE/REUTERS



Haaland is given the freedom of Goodison to head home City's second after Gundogan's opener

Guardiola: Mina actions unnecessary

PAUL HIRST

Pep Guardiola accused Yerry Mina of resorting to the dark arts to try to stop his Manchester City players.

Guardiola confronted Mina on the pitch after his City side had beaten Everton 3-0 at Goodison Park, but the City manager would not reveal exactly what the centre back had done to wind up his players.

Footage showed Aymeric Laporte reacting angrily to what looked to be a pinch to his midriff by the Colombia defender.

"Mina? It's not necessary what he does," Guardiola said.

"Away from the football, it is not necessary to do what he does every single game. And I told him, 'You are a good enough player to avoid these kinds of things.'"

When asked directly what Mina had done, Guardiola said: "He [Mina] knows. Ask him. This is not physical, this is not mental.



Guardiola spoke to the Everton centre back on the pitch after City's victory

"There are things that are not necessary to do that he does. This time with Aymeric, Jack [Grealish], everybody."

Sean Dyche was surprised by Guardiola's comments. "He [Guardiola] didn't say anything to me about it," the Everton manager said. "I was in the dressing room [after the game] so I have no clue.

"If he [Mina] does it all the time, I wouldn't know where he [Guardiola] has seen it, because he hasn't been on the pitch for weeks."

Dyche had no problem with Guardiola approaching the centre back after the match to discuss the situation.

"Every manager has his own way of working," Dyche said. "I wouldn't question Pep Guardiola. I wouldn't want other managers questioning me."

Guardiola, meanwhile, allayed fears over Rodri's fitness before City's Champions League semi-final, second leg against Real Madrid on Wednesday.

The key midfielder started holding his knee in the second half, which worried some supporters. "He will be OK," Guardiola said.

Is there anything that will deter City captain from exit?

Paul Hirst asks if, even with depth available, Pep can afford to lose Ilkay Gundogan, whose heart seems set on Barcelona

It went unnoticed at the time, but in the aftermath of Manchester City's FA Cup semi-final win over Sheffield United last month, Ilkay Gundogan spoke to a Turkish TV channel about his hopes for the rest of the season.

With a wide smile on his face after watching his team brush aside the Sky Bet Championship club, Gundogan said: "I send a lot of greetings to Turkey. It would be a whole different pride to lift a trophy in Istanbul as the captain of this team in the Champions League."

Gundogan's parents are Turkish and he has strong ties with the country. In July, after a small wedding in Copenhagen, Gundogan threw a huge second wedding party in his home town of Dursunbey, in the north west of the country.

That explains why getting all the way to the final in Istanbul and lifting the trophy for City would be extra special for the 32-year-old.

It would be a fitting way to end a seven-year City career that has brought him nine winners' medals, with another three possibly on the way. If — as is expected — Gundogan waves goodbye to City when his contract ends in the summer and joins Barcelona on a free transfer, he will leave a huge hole in the City midfield.

In the past two months in particular, Gundogan's form has been nothing short of outstanding. This improvement — and that of the likes of Kevin De Bruyne — is one of the reasons why City seem destined to sweep all before them this year. Guardiola likes to wax lyrical about Gundogan. He is one of his favourite players, so it came as no surprise that the City manager was in the mood to talk about him extensively after his starring role in the defeat of Everton.

Of all the words that Guardiola spoke about Gundogan, the following sentence stood out more than the rest. "He can do everything, and he can do everything well," Guardiola said.

It is a simple statement, but it was bang on the money. So much vision, skill, strength and confidence was required to hold off his marker and flick the ball past Jordan Pickford with his back to goal to put City ahead. Drive, energy and skill were needed to run down the left channel and tee up Erling Haaland for City's second. His second goal was a thing of beauty too.

In 47 appearances, Gundogan has scored nine goals and set up seven more, but while impressive, those statistics do not fully sum up just how important he is to City. At the Bernabéu against Real Madrid on Tuesday, he kept drifting past Toni Kroos, who had to kick his compatriot to stop him. Gundogan fought courageously against Leon Goretzka and Joshua Kimmich in the second leg of the Champions League quarter-final second leg against Bayern Munich too.

He is a big-game player and an effective captain. "He doesn't talk much but when he talks everyone listens, and this is the power of the leader," Guardiola said. "He shows his leadership in every training session, arriving on time, living your job 24 hours a day. He has shown again and again the quality and importance and his commitment, to all of us, to the club — and not just by scoring goals," Guardiola said.

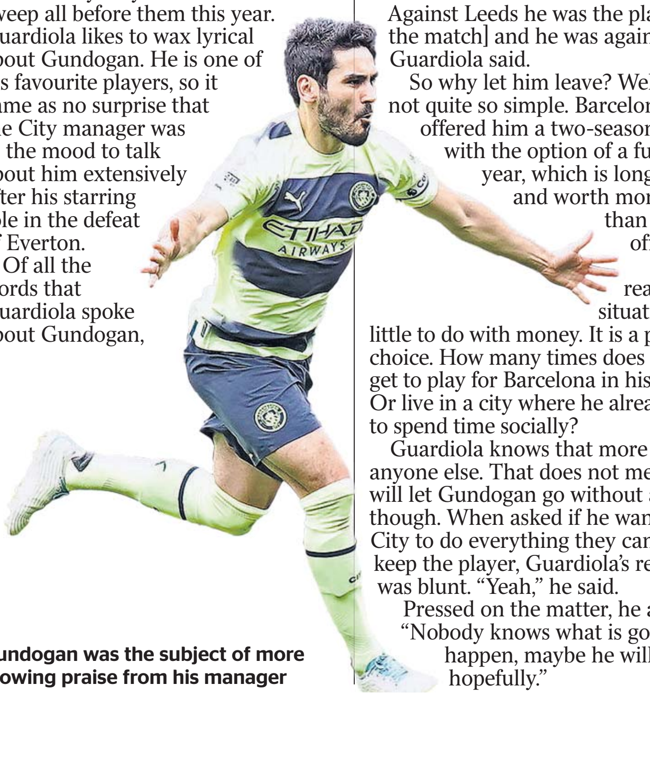
In the second half of the season, few players have played with as much consistency. There was a goal against Newcastle United, an assist in the top-of-the-table clash with Arsenal. Gundogan scored against Liverpool too and now he has scored twice in successive Premier League matches.

"Now he has his momentum. Against Leeds he was the player [of the match] and he was again today," Guardiola said.

So why let him leave? Well, it is not quite so simple. Barcelona have offered him a two-season deal with the option of a further year, which is longer — and worth more — than City's offering. But in reality, the situation has little to do with money. It is a personal choice. How many times does a player get to play for Barcelona in his career? Or live in a city where he already likes to spend time socially?

Guardiola knows that more than anyone else. That does not mean he will let Gundogan go without a fight, though. When asked if he wanted City to do everything they can to keep the player, Guardiola's reply was blunt. "Yeah," he said.

Pressed on the matter, he added: "Nobody knows what is going to happen, maybe he will stay, hopefully."



Gundogan was the subject of more glowing praise from his manager

PAUL TERRY/SPORTIMAGE/ALAMY

Future leader Mbeumo steps from shadows to fill Toney void



Brentford	West Ham Utd
2	0
Mbeumo 20 Wissa 43	

RATINGS
Brentford (4-3-3): D Raya 7 — A Hickey 7 (M Roerslev 85min), E Pinnock 7, B Mee 7, R Henry 7 — M Damsgaard 7 (S Baptiste 77min), V Janelt 7, M Jensen 7 (F Onyeka 70, 6) — B Mbeumo 8, Y Wissa 7 (J Dasilva 77), K Schade 7 (S Ghoddos 86).
Booked Hickey.
West Ham United (4-2-3-1): L Fabianski 6 — B Johnson 5, A Ogbonna 5, N Aguerd 5, Emerson 5 — T Soucek 5 (D Rice 58, 6), F Downes 5 — P Fornals 5 (D Mubama 58, 5), M Lanzini 5, M Cornet 5 (S Benrahma 59, 6) — D Ings 6 (J Bowen 83).
Referee M Oliver. **Attendance** 17,075.

ALYSON RUDD



At Brentford Community Stadium

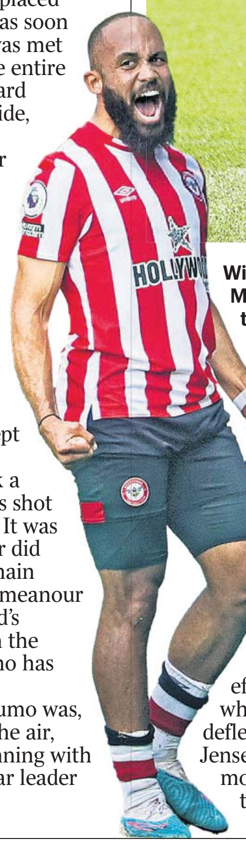
Everyone connected to AZ Alkmaar would have looked on mistrustfully. The Dutch team face West Ham United on Thursday in the second leg of their Europa Conference League semi-final and it was as though David Moyes, the West Ham manager, constructed a performance designed to make their opponents feel like they will stroll into the final. Alkmaar would certainly have been pleased that it is not Brentford who stand in their path, for Thomas Frank's side were a class apart.

This contest began as if it was a church fête. There was polite chatter interspersed with the choir of the visiting fans in the sunny corner of the stadium. There was not too much jeopardy involved. Moyes picked a team with that Europa Conference League tie in mind: Declan Rice, Jarrod Bowen, Kurt Zouma and Saïd Benrahma all started on the bench, with Michail Antonio rested due to a slight calf strain. The east London club are not mathematically safe from relegation but their manager must believe their status in the league is secure. Moyes said that he had hoped those players who came in would fight to prove they should wear the jersey for the season's finale, but the overall advertisement was weak.

Brentford do have a target: to end the season as the highest-placed club in west London, and as soon as a Kevin Schade cross was met by Mikkel Damsgaard, the entire ground woke up. Damsgaard directed his header just wide, but the build-up was slick and intelligent, a reminder of the quality that has allowed Frank's team to enjoy such a successful second campaign in the Premier League.

The opening goal was elegantly constructed, albeit built on a mistake by Nayef Aguerd which gave possession to the home team on the left flank. Mathias Jensen swept the ball into the path of Bryan Mbeumo, who took a moment before placing his shot beyond Lukasz Fabianski. It was as if the Cameroon winger did not quite want to be the main attraction; he wore the demeanour of someone with the world's weight on his shoulders in the absence of Ivan Toney, who has a hamstring injury.

Star man, though, Mbeumo was, plucking long balls from the air, passing with style and running with pace. The forward is a clear leader in the making.



Wissa, above right, and Mbeumo, left, were both on the scoresheet for Brentford

"Bryan is sometimes going a little bit under the radar, I think he's a fantastic player," Frank said. "I think he could, should, have scored more. Plus he works so hard for the team."

One of Jensen's long, looping throw-ins caused mayhem in the West Ham box, the final effort coming from Ben Mee, whose close-range stab was deflected for a corner. The next Jensen throw-in was used far more effectively: Mee flicked the ball on for Yoane Wissa, who in turn flicked the ball past Fabianski. There was no evidence to suggest that West Ham were aware of Brentford's threat from this type of set piece.

"We tried to do some work on long throws," Moyes said, "but you wouldn't believe it."

Mbeumo would have headed in a third goal but for a brave block by Angelo Ogbonna. After another Mbeumo run had left the West Ham defence practically cowering, Moyes made several changes, including bringing Rice and Benrahma on. Frank's team barely noticed and Damsgaard should have scored from a Jensen corner.

Rice did, though, instigate a period of pressing which led to a chance for Ben Johnson that was saved with agility by David Raya. Manuel Lanzini then cut a delivery back for Danny Ings to finish at close range after Benrahma's cross had rebounded off the post. Quite a few minutes later the goal was disallowed for a handball by Divin Mubama.

No one inside the stadium had thought for a second anything was amiss. Mubama, a substitute, was hurtling towards the post, trying not to damage his neck in the process. The review served to sap West Ham of their briefly replenished energy and ensured a club record-equalling 12th Premier League away defeat of the season.

Moyes called the decision to rule out the goal "very strange" as he believed the ball struck his player's collarbone. "I definitely don't see how it's conclusive," Moyes said. "I'm amazed it was chalked off."

Mbeumo, meanwhile, kept on creating and nearly scored again. The Brentford fairytale shows no sign of diminishing.

Impressive Eze ready to ease Palace's dependency on Zaha

Crystal Palace Eze 39, 58	**2**
Bournemouth	**0**

RATINGS
Crystal Palace (4-4-2): S Johnstone 6 — J Ward 7, J Andersen 7, M Guehi 7, T Mitchell 7 — M Olise 7, E Eze 9, C Doucouré 7 (J McArthur 82min), W Hughes 8 (J Riedewald 77) — J Ayew 8, W Zaha 8 (O Édouard 51, 7).
Bournemouth (4-2-3-1): Neto 6 — C Mepham 5, I Zabarnyi 5, L Kelly 6, M Vina 5 — J Rothwell 5 (L Cook 81), J Lerma 6 — D Ouattara 4 (J Anthony 73), P Billing 4 (D Brooks 60, 5), R Christie 5 (K Moore 60, 5) — D Solanke 5.
Booked Lerma, Brooks.
Referee M Salisbury.

PAUL ROWAN

A bounce game in all but name, but there were ten tumultuous minutes that will live long in the memory of Crystal Palace supporters.

Early in the second half Wilfried Zaha pulled up with a pained expression on his face, mouthing the words "hamstring" and his afternoon's work was finished. He had to walk gingerly around the pitch to get to the tunnel, receiving a huge ovation all the way from the home supporters, and he waved back, perhaps his final goodbye. Seven minutes later, Michael Olise sprayed a brilliant crossfield ball inside the Bournemouth half, right to the spot where Zaha would normally be.

Eberechi Eze is Palace's top scorer this season and was already on the scoresheet, but now it felt like he was stepping out of a large shadow. He cut inside on the edge of the penalty area and thumped the ball so hard that Neto in the Bournemouth goal was left rooted to the spot as it hit the net.

Roy Hodgson, the Palace manager, went out of his way later to highlight Olise's assist and engaged with the idea that Palace now had replacements for Zaha, should he move on at the end of the season when he is out of contract, as many people are predicting.

"We have been very, very dependent on Wilf for a long time. We are unbelievably grateful for the performances he gave and the number of matches that he helped us win. Now with those two players [Eze and Olise] there is more support for the attacking side of our game. You can even mention Jordan Ayew, who has improved a lot. If Wilf does decide to go he'll be sorely missed, but perhaps there are a few more players in the wings who can soften the blow."

With Will Hughes also outstanding on Saturday, Palace dominated the game, before and after Zaha's departure. Zaha had set up Palace's opener, with a dazzling Cruyff turn which Ayew helped into the path of Eze, who thumped the ball past Neto. An outstanding brace from a player who struggled under Patrick Vieira, but has now scored six goals in eight games since Hodgson came in. He explained afterwards: "I'm a bit more free and he [Hodgson] has given me the licence to run at people and be creative."

Hodgson was less keen to embrace that idea.

"We certainly haven't decided that he will be relieved of any duties to be freer. We expect a lot from him when we lose the ball with the shape of the team and his role in the shape of the team. He's reacted very, very well to that. If by the way the team is structured at the moment, and what we are looking to do when we are on the ball he feels a little bit freer, that's great."



Zaha received a huge ovation from home fans

Gary O'Neil, the Bournemouth manager, said that he would be speaking to Howard Webb, the PGMOL chief refereeing officer, about a first-half incident where Joachim Andersen appeared to jab Jefferson Lerma, who was left with a broken nose, but carried on till the end of the game.

It was Eze who landed the heavy blows.

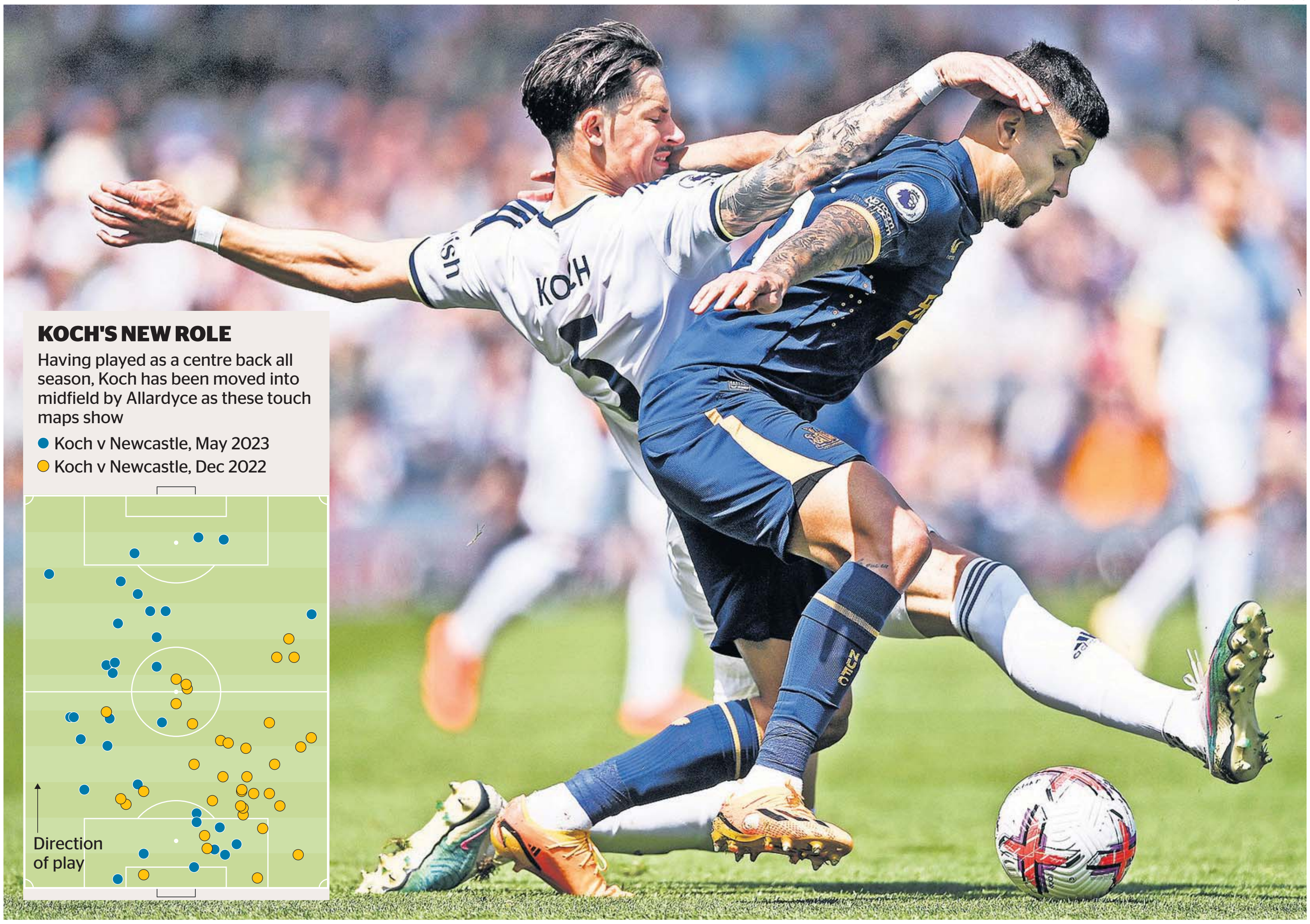
Koch pivotal to Allardyce's plan

Leeds United 2
Ayling 7, Kristensen 79

Newcastle United 2
Wilson 31 (pen), 69 (pen)

RATINGS
Leeds United (4-3-2-1): J Robles 7 — L Ayling 7, R Kristensen 7, M Wöber 6, J Firpo 5 — W McKennie 6, R Koch 7, S Greenwood 6 (A Forshaw 45min, 7) — J Harrison 7 (W Gnonto 64, 5), Rodrigo 7 — P Bamford 6 (P Struijk 90+2). **Booked** Robles, Bamford, Gnonto. **Sent off** Firpo.
Newcastle United (4-3-3): N Pope 7 — K Trippier 6, F Schär, S Botman 7, D Burn 6 — Joelinton 6, B Guimarães 7, J Willock 7 (E Anderson 87) — M Almirón 6 (A Gordon 72), C Wilson (A Saint-Maximin 72, 8), A Isak 6. **Booked** Guimarães, Wilson.
Referee S Hooper. **Attendance** 36,955.

STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES



Koch makes his presence felt against Guimarães after his switch from central defence to a holding midfield role in a move that paid dividends for Allardyce, below

MARTIN HARDY

A quite ferocious game had barely subsided when Sam Allardyce was asked why he had played Robin Koch at the base of his midfield. Koch, a central defender by trade, has been at the heart of a Leeds United defence that is the worst in the Premier League and had played in all five games before Allardyce's arrival, when such catastrophic defending resulted in 18 goals being conceded.

Moving him to the heart of midfield then, in a game that Allardyce had said could not end in defeat if Leeds were serious about staying up, was a huge move, and one that paid dividends. Koch was perhaps Leeds's best player, adding solidity to his team's defence, breaking up play and using the ball well.

Newcastle United had 18 shots but less than a third were on target. Allardyce praised his goalkeeper, Joel Robles, but there were no outstanding saves to make. Leeds conceded two goals from two penalties.

Koch offered a clear support to the two central defenders behind him, and in front of him were two midfielders, in Weston McKennie and Sam Greenwood, whose prime aim was to also protect.

To that end Allardyce is copying his own playbook, namely the one that rescued Sunderland in 2016. One of the key elements of that survival was the signing of Jan Kirchhoff, a 6ft 5in German central defender, and the tactical deployment of him as a holding midfielder. Kirchhoff became a pivot, key to play being broken up and then acting as a springboard for direct attacks.



Koch is 6ft 4in and a German central defender, so the similarities are clear, and his importance on Saturday was obvious. Allardyce was smiling when he answered the question as to why he had moved Koch. "Well, it's my job to do that," he said. "People playing in that position, having the ability that Robin has and also the defensive nous, means that they can make a play happen and also stop the opposition by his defensive experience, so he's a terrific asset in that position."

Kirchhoff's importance to Sunderland became such that he started every game in a 13-match run towards the end of the 2015-16 season in which the club won four, drew seven and lost only twice, to West Ham United and the eventual title winners, Leicester City. Kirchhoff's key stats were in tackles, interceptions, aerial duels won, clearances and pass accuracy, all areas in which Koch did well against Newcastle.

"Sam is definitely underappreciated as a coach," Kirchhoff said of Allardyce in interview in 2019. "His tactics might be 'basic' but that's what you need as a footballer, to have a plan and to know what you should expect from your team-mate. You knew what the plan was, who was running on to which pass, who was defending which area. Sam's idea was clear and effective."

Leeds were effective, resilient and stubborn; they wasted time, committed fouls to break the game up and knocked a Newcastle side recovering from a 2-0 defeat by Arsenal out of their stride. Luke Ayling scored after seven minutes. Patrick Bamford missed a penalty that resulted in Allardyce kicking the dugout in frustration before Callum Wilson scored two penalties, one in each half, for Newcastle.

Leeds rallied at 2-1 down, a contrast to the capitulations against Crystal Palace, Liverpool and Bournemouth under Javi Gracia, and equalised through a deflected shot from Rasmus Kristensen.

Junior Firpo was booked for a shocking challenge on Bruno Guimarães, was not further penalised despite giving away the second penalty and was then shown a straight red when he fouled Anthony Gordon and denied the player an obvious goalscoring opportunity.

Newcastle have three games to reach the Champions League for the first time in 19 years. They know it will go down to the wire. Leeds, with only two games left, against West Ham and Tottenham Hotspur, do not, but team structure, fight and the most raucous of atmospheres mean they have a chance if it does.

It was probably a compliment to Allardyce that Eddie Howe, the Newcastle head coach, revealed that he had changed formations "four or five times" in the game. His team have missed the running and energy of Sean Longstaff in the defeat by Arsenal and in the draw with Leeds.

Alexander Isak on the left with Wilson down the middle is still experimental. Isak lost Ayling for the first goal. Joelinton spent some of the game in the holding midfield role and some out wide, and Newcastle have now conceded ten goals in the past six games. They will feel pressure on Thursday, when Brighton & Hove Albion arrive at St James' Park for what could be a must-win game.

They do, though, have Nick Pope in fine form. His penalty save from Bamford in the 27th minute felt huge. It kept Newcastle in the game, and forced Leeds to dig deep for their point, which will have pleased Allardyce, despite his initial devastation and joking desire for "two Valium" when a chaotic and breathless game had reached its conclusion.

Leeds fan charged with assault after touchline incident with Howe

MARTIN HARDY

A Leeds United fan who is alleged to have grabbed Eddie Howe during Saturday's game against Newcastle United has been arrested and will appear before magistrates on July 21.

West Yorkshire police confirmed that the male supporter had been charged with assault for the incident.

Howe, the Newcastle United head coach, admitted that he was stunned when a Leeds supporter approached him as he stood in the technical area in the closing stages of the 2-2 draw between the two sides at Elland Road. The fan, wearing a beige hoodie, was bundled away by a member of Newcastle's security team and a Leeds steward after the incident in stoppage time at the end of the second half.

A police statement read: "Police have charged a man with assault and entering the field of play following an incident at Elland Road yesterday. The man has been bailed to appear before magistrates on July 21."

Leeds released a brief statement confirming that the supporter would never be allowed in Elland Road again. "Leeds United can confirm that an arrest has been made and a lifetime ban has also been issued," the statement read.

Howe called for increased security at football grounds for players and managers in England after the incident. "Moments like this should hopefully make people analyse things and see how we can improve safety for staff and players," he said. "It certainly makes you think, 'What if?'

"I can't actually remember whether he pushed me or not, I've got no idea. It was just such a strange thing. You're concentrating on the game, it's not something you expect to happen.



Howe has called for increased security

"I don't know if I had time to be fearful because it was over in a flash. I think moments like that do make you think.

"The safety of staff and players is paramount. We need to be mindful. Security is so important. Those types of situations — no one should have to face that, playing a sport they love and trying to entertain the country. No one should have to feel that their own personal safety is violated. It's something for us to reflect on."

Restoring belief at top of Pochettino's brimming in-tray

Chelsea 2
Sterling 51, 58

Nott'm Forest 2
Awoniyi 13, 62

RATINGS
Chelsea (4-3-3): É Mendy 5 — T Chalobah 6, T Silva 5, B Badiashile 5, L Hall 6 — M Kovacic 6 (R Loftus-Cheek 45+1min, 6), E Fernández 7, C Gallagher 6 — N Madueke 5 (H Ziyech 73), J Félix 6 (K Havertz 73), R Sterling 8. **Booked** Félix, Silva, Gallagher.
Nottingham Forest (3-4-2-1): K Navas 6 — J Worrall 7, Felipe 6, M Niakhaté 7 — S Aurier 6, O Mangala 6, R Yates 6 (C Kouyaté 85), R Lodi 7 — M Gibbs-White 6, Danilo 6 (H Toffolo 90+1) — T Awoniyi 7 (B Johnson 81). **Booked** Lodi.
Referee P Tierney. **Attendance** 40,030.

TOM RODDY

There is a good chance that Chelsea's players and staff may notice a surprise object on Mauricio Pochettino's desk when he settles into his corner office at the club's Cobham training base this summer.

The Argentine coach likes to have a bowl of lemons nearby while at work. The theory goes that any negative energy is absorbed by the citrus fruit and the speed at which it rots is dependent on those present. Sometimes they are replaced after ten days; sometimes only three.

Pochettino may need a steady supply in the early weeks as he aims to address the long list of issues when the club's most chaotic campaign in decades finally comes to an end.

Overriding all the problems is the need to create a culture after the approach from Roman Abramovich's era was ripped up and replaced by that of Todd Boehly and his Clearlake Capital partners over the past 12 months. Saturday's failure to beat the relegation-threatened Nottingham Forest in the 2-2 draw at Stamford Bridge symbolised the situation, with players largely stumbling along, shoulders slumped, heads bowed in embarrassment after this season.

Confidence and belief are at an all-time low. One of the first things Pochettino did at Tottenham Hotspur after being appointed head coach in 2014 was to address this; to remind the players of Spurs' history and where the club's expectations should be. He was astonished to hear that players were concerned about facing West Ham United and Queens Park Rangers in their first games. Chelsea have lost to relegated Southampton, plus Wolverhampton Wanderers, Brentford and twice to Brighton & Hove Albion during this dismal campaign.

Pochettino will inherit a hugely bloated squad of more than 35 first-team players, with Malo Gusto and Andrey Santos joining up with the squad for the first time, having signed for Chelsea during the £600 million spending spree of the past two transfer windows before being loaned out.

128
Changes to Chelsea's starting XI this season — the most in the Premier League (Liverpool are second with 98)

Romelu Lukaku is due to return too. The Belgium striker's future at Chelsea was in serious doubt when he departed for Inter Milan on loan last summer after the breakdown of his relationship with Thomas Tuchel. The sour taste of his time at Stamford Bridge may lead Lukaku to seek a permanent move away, but Chelsea's need for a striker has been abundantly clear this season.

Even before this campaign, the team have not possessed a prolific goalscorer since the days of Diego Costa. Resolving that issue should be high on Pochettino's list. He will know Lukaku's relationship with coaches is key to performance; during his first spell at Inter, the striker loved working with Antonio Conte. Lukaku knows that Pochettino helped to shape Harry Kane into the all-time leading scorer for Tottenham and England during his five years in north London.

"When I first met him, I knew he was a respectful guy, straight away I knew he was someone I could get on with, but only if I was working hard, respecting him and being part of the team," Kane said in 2017.

"A lot of the time he's calm, but he's very passionate. If he feels the problem isn't the game but is about our attitude, he'll just tell us we need to work harder or play harder. He's emotional.

"He's got two sides to him. He's very respectful; if you respect him, he'll show you respect back. If you work hard for him, he'll give you his time. But he's ruthless if you cross him. If you don't want to work for him and you don't want to be a team player, you won't be part of the team."

Trimming off the dead wood will be an immediate task. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Christian Pulisic and Hakim Ziyech are among the group whose future inevitably lies away from Stamford Bridge.

But what of Kai Havertz? Does Raheem Sterling still fit? Which goalkeeper does Pochettino prefer: Kepa Arrizabalaga or Édouard Mendy? Or do Chelsea enter the market for a new No 1?

BRING BACK LUKAKU?



DECIDE MOUNT'S FUTURE





Ward-Prowse suitors circle after Southampton relegation

Southampton 0

Fulham 2
Vinícius 48, Mitrovic 72

RATINGS
Southampton (4-2-3-1): A McCarthy 6 — K Walker-Peters 5, J Bednarek 6, Lyanco 6, A Maitland-Niles 5 (A Armstrong 82min) — J Ward-Prowse 6, R Lavia 6 — T Walcott 5 (K Sulemana 62, 6), C Alcaraz 6 (M Elyounoussi 73), S Armstrong 5 (M Djenepo 73) — P Onuachu 6 (S Mara 62, 6). **Booked** Lavia, Djenepo.
Fulham (4-2-3-1): B Leno 6 — K Tete 7, T Adarabioyo 6, I Diop 6, A Robinson 6 — J Palhinha 7 (S Lukic 77), H Reed 8 — H Wilson 7 (N Kebano 78), T Cairney 7 (B Decordova-Reid 69, 6), Willian 7 (M Solomon 78) — C Vinícius 7 (A Mitrovic 65, 7).
Referee T Bramall.

TOM ALLNUTT

A few minutes after the whistle had blown and the curtain had finally come down on Southampton's survival hopes, James Ward-Prowse led the players on a walk around the pitch at St Mary's.

It was a strange moment, as if neither the players nor the crowd knew quite what the point was, only that there should be some sort of gesture of connection, humility even, to mark the end of this doomed pursuit of safety. Some of the fans booed, but many applauded. One tossed his season ticket over the hoardings. Most were long gone.

That it was Ward-Prowse out in front, though, spoke volumes about Southampton's season, their captain and playmaker doing all the thinking and trying, even if the end result was a little clunky. It was tempting to wonder if Ward-Prowse was a welcome shield for his team-mates behind him, that without the academy boy many more of those applauding would have booed.

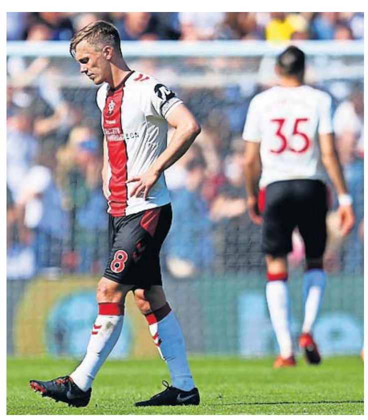
There is probably a danger in sugarcoating Ward-Prowse, whose wizardry at corners and free kicks has perhaps masked some of his own inadequacies this season. Plenty of Southampton fans will point out that even their talisman should not be immune to criticism, that he has underperformed as well.

But they would be immensely sad to see the 28-year-old go this summer; his quality, precision, spirit and dedication cannot be attributed to many of the Southampton players. The 19-year-old Roméo Lavia is a talent and it would be a shame to lose him so soon. Kyle Walker-Peters is a fighter and never gives in. The rest? Nobody looks indispensable. It is almost harder to know who to keep.

Ward-Prowse will not be short of suitors in the Premier League, the kind of clubs where his place may be less secure but where he could be sure of avoiding another relegation scrap next season. Aston Villa and Newcastle United have long been interested. Tottenham Hotspur have been keen in the past. After 12 years and almost 350 appearances for Southampton, nobody would begrudge him some European football and a change of scenery.

The alternative would be to stay and lead Southampton back from the Sky Bet Championship, but there is no evidence that a revival is imminent. More staff are expected to leave at the end of the season, with Rubén Selles, the latest manager, likely to be among them. Who will replace him? How many of this squad will stay? Will the new owners step forward or pull back? When Southampton were previously relegated from the Premier League they needed seven years, and a spell in League One, to return.

"When these things happen you go away individually and as a club and ask if you have done enough. I don't think we have," Ward-Prowse said. "Have decisions been right? Have we been good enough on the pitch? I believe we should be performing at a better level than we have done. The standards have slipped away and that is why we are where we are now."



Ward-Prowse says "standards slipped away" during their doomed season

Southampton have rarely been blown away this season but the chaos has counted against them. Backing Ralph Hasenhüttl backfired, replacing him with Nathan Jones was a disaster and promoting Selles proved ineffective. The sides who have pulled away from the relegation zone have either got a new appointment right — Wolverhampton Wanderers, Bournemouth, Crystal Palace — or, like West Ham United and Nottingham Forest, have kept the faith and made the most of the stability.

"It hasn't helped," Walker-Peters said, when asked about the managerial changes. "When I first came here [in 2020] it was a smaller squad, a tight-knit squad, and when there is a lot of change it makes things hard. On the pitch we haven't been good enough, and ultimately that is why we're getting relegated."

Fulham revelled in a comfortable afternoon on the south coast as Carlos Vinícius tapped in before he was replaced by Aleksandar Mitrovic, who came on in the 65th minute and scored in the 72nd.

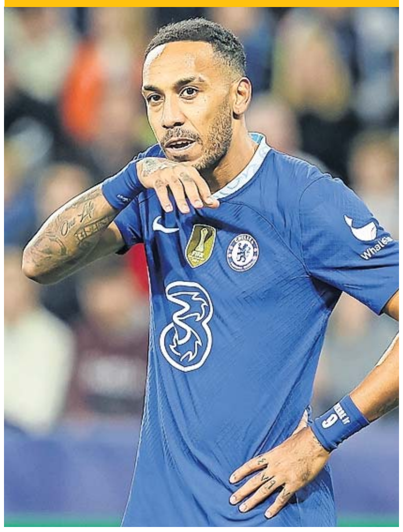
Mitrovic was making his first Fulham appearance since March 19 after his eight-game ban for pushing the referee Chris Kavanagh, and while the Serb's absence may have cost his team the chance of playing in Europe next season, his return will be a welcome boost. Fulham are chasing the club's Premier League record of 53 points, which they registered under Roy Hodgson when they finished seventh in 2009. They have 51 now, with Hodgson's Palace up next at home before a trip to face Manchester United on the final day.

JULIAN FINNEY/GETTY IMAGES

PLENTY FOR NEW MAN TO PONDER



CLEAR OUT DEAD WOOD



BUILD A TEAM AROUND ENZO



Those who remain can expect a high-intensity pre-season schedule. Pochettino's philosophy is that players "suffer in training so you don't suffer in the game". Jack Cork, the midfielder who worked with Pochettino at Southampton, said it felt as if two hearts were needed to handle the high-energy approach required. Pablo Osvaldo said "you suffer like a dog" in training and "at times you want to kill him". But the forward's affection for the manager meant he followed Pochettino from Espanyol to Southampton.

Pochettino has already identified a Spanish-speaking contingent at Stamford Bridge. His fellow countryman Enzo Fernández is the British record signing and the world's most expensive midfielder after his £106 million move from Benfica in January. Fernández is intended to be the face of the new era and Pochettino will need to build a midfield around him.

There is a key question about the personnel in that part of the field: who partners Fernández? N'Golo Kanté could have played his final game for Chelsea after suffering an injury that brought a premature end to the final season of his contract. Chelsea had been confident about agreeing a new deal but no agreement has been reached yet. Mateo Kovacic has one year left on his contract and Chelsea will want to either sign him up on a longer deal or sell this summer.

Most pressing among the potential departures is Mason Mount. His future at the club that he joined aged six is highly uncertain, with only one year left on his deal and a stalemate in negotiations over a renewal. Pochettino admires Mount and wants him to remain a part of the Chelsea squad. Like many managers, he knows the England international's talent and application.

Mount is a regular for England under Gareth Southgate and has been voted Chelsea's player of the year the past two seasons, after making his breakthrough in 2019, under Frank Lampard. What is less known is that Lampard was not the first head coach who attempted to use Mount. Maurizio Sarri asked to have him as part of the first-team squad in 2018, but Chelsea could not recall Mount from his loan at Derby County.

Part of the Pochettino culture is having a strong core within the squad. At Tottenham, that came through the development of Kane, Dele Alli, Harry Winks and Eric Dier. Pochettino aims to form deep and strong relationships with his players. After a falling out with Dier in December 2016, the two men spoke in Pochettino's office for four hours, and regularly throughout the rest of that week. The relationship was repaired, the problem discussed and resolved, the lemons well used.

Pochettino is known for managing up well and, at Chelsea, he will find a club with a wide hierarchy. Alongside Boehly and the co-controlling owner, Behdad Eghbali, are the co-sporting directors, Paul Winstanley and Laurence Stewart. Then, there is the technical director, Christopher Vivell, and the co-director of recruitment, Joe Shields.

Pochettino only really had to deal with Daniel Levy, the chairman, at Tottenham, but their bond was so strong that Tracey, Levy's wife, described the Argentinian as the third member of their marriage. They would holiday together at Levy's chalet in the French mountains and he once gifted Pochettino a Bentley and bottles of red wine.

Argentine Malbec is Pochettino's favourite. He is known to drink it in moments of celebration and Chelsea will hope that there are many of those ahead, but Pochettino has plenty of work to do to resurrect the serial winners to their previous status.

Spurs adrift after change of heart over Nagelsmann

Aston Villa 2
Ramsey 8, Luiz 72

Tottenham 1
Kane 90 (pen)

RATINGS
Aston Villa (4-4-2): E Martínez 7 — A Young 7, E Konsa 7, T Mings 7, A Moreno 7 — L Bailey 6 (B Kamara 68min, 6), J McGinn 8, D Luiz 7, J Ramsey 7 — E Buendía 6 (J Durán 68, 6), O Watkins 7 (M Cash 90). **Booked** McGinn, Young, Watkins.
Tottenham (3-4-2-1): F Forster 7 — E Royal 6, C Romero 5, C Lenglet 6 — P Porro 5 (A Danjuma 81), O Skipp 6 (Y Bissouma 62, 6), P-E Hojbjerg 6, B Davies 6 (I Perisic 90) — Son Heung-min 5, Richarlison 5 (D Kulusevski 62, 5) — H Kane 5.
Booked Skipp, Kane, Romero.
Referee P Bankes. **Attendance** 42,164.

CHARLOTTE DUNCKER

Defeat by Aston Villa on Saturday confirmed what Tottenham Hotspur and their fans have known for a while: there will be no Champions League football for them next season.

Goals from Jacob Ramsey and Douglas Luiz meant that Spurs have not won on the road in the league since January and have not won outside London since October.

"Ultimately it is not good enough for a club this size. You cannot expect to compete where we want to compete with that sort of record," Ryan Mason, the Spurs interim head coach, said. "It needs to improve. It needs to be a collective, it needs to be driven from all of us. It is nowhere near the level we should be at and it needs to change."

If only sorting their away form was the biggest problem they had to address. Instead they are drifting, apparently without a plan, and risk not being in any European competition at all next season, with two big games, against Brentford and Leeds United, to come.

On the eve of a fixture that Unai Emery described as a cup final in the race for Europe, word came from within that Spurs had not met Julian Nagelsmann and that he was not the right candidate for the head coach's job. Not the best tone to set before such an important game.

It is of little surprise that it took only 15 seconds for the away support at Villa Park to start chanting against the Spurs chairman, Daniel Levy. On paper Nagelsmann seemed like the ideal man to oversee what is going to be a big project to get the club back on track. Instead it is another decision that has left fans wondering what direction their club is heading in, with no head coach, no director of football and, in Harry Kane, a striker who has carried them, with 27 goals this season, but who could be on the move in the summer.

Conceding within eight minutes for the third game in a row is not, Mason said, the work of a "big team"; neither is failing to register a shot in the first half. Kane and Son Heung-min have been a formidable partnership but Villa's high line caught them out and they struggled to find a way through.

When Emery took charge in November, Villa were in 13th with 15 points, while Spurs sat nine places above them in fourth, on 26 points — yet when the final whistle was blown only goal difference separated the sides. They feel like two teams heading in different directions.

Spurs could learn from Villa under Emery. The owners did everything necessary to get their man and are continuing to back him.

It is this swift and decisive action that has led to an unexpected European charge with only two games to go, something Emery admitted even he did not think was a realistic target this season. Villa are overachieving in the Spaniard's first season in charge, while Spurs need two big results to save a chaotic and underwhelming campaign.

Kane penalty was nailed on

The expert view

PETER WALTON



Former Premier League referee

The challenge by Emiliano Martínez on Harry Kane was a nailed-on penalty, even though the original decision went in favour of Aston Villa.

For a spot kick to be awarded, the officials needed to confirm that Martínez had not touched the ball and that his follow-through into Kane was preventable. The on-field referee, Peter Bankes, originally believed the Villa goalkeeper had got to the ball, because he gave a corner, so it seemed that the criteria for a penalty had not been met.

However, the VAR spotted that Martínez had not made contact and advised Bankes to review the incident. The footage revealed a clear and obvious error, as well as confirming that Martínez followed through unnecessarily.

There is a suggestion that Kane was on his way down before the contact, but the offence against him makes this factor irrelevant. Kane gets accused of receiving friendly treatment from referees, but I think this narrative is merely a product of the high level of scrutiny he receives as a recognisable player and the England captain.



One winger looked a £90m player – and it wasn't Antony

Manchester Utd 2
Martial 32, Garnacho 90+4

Wolves 0

RATINGS
Man United (4-2-3-1): D de Gea 6 — A Wan-Bissaka 6, V Lindelof 6, R Varane 7 (H Maguire 80min), L Shaw 7 — Casemiro 6, C Eriksen 6 (Fred 81) — Antony 6, B Fernandes 7, J Sancho 5 (A Garnacho 81) — A Martial 7 (W Weghorst 68, 5). **Booked** Shaw, Casemiro, Garnacho.
Wolves (4-4-2): D Bentley 8 — N Semedo 7, C Dawson 6, M Kilman 6, Toti 5 (H Bueno 61, 5) — M Nunes 5, R Neves 7, M Lemina 6 (A Traoré 74), P Neto 5 (H-C Hwang 45, 7) — M Cunha 5 (D Podence 61, 6), D Costa 5 (R Jiménez 77).
Booked Costa, Dawson.
Referee J Brooks.

IAN WHITTELL

There was one precocious Manchester United winger who looked as if he might one day be well worth a €100 million transfer fee after this victory but it was a sign of the erratic first season enjoyed by Erik ten Hag as manager that the player in question was not Antony.

Ten Hag, by general consent, chronically overpaid in signing the 23-year-old Brazilian from his old club Ajax last summer, part of an off-season in which, he admitted on Friday, he struggled to convince players to move to Old Trafford.

Antony's performance on Saturday summed up his and, one could argue, United's entire campaign; in parts brilliant but, ultimately, frustrating and short on goals or end product.

Yet, as has been the case in so many aspects of Ten Hag's debut season in English football, this game ended on a high as Old Trafford roared on the teenager Alejandro Garnacho, back from a two-month injury lay-off, as a late substitute and the Argentinian duly delivered with an impressive injury-time goal.

It was a welcome return, given United's precarious hold on fourth place in the Premier League table, and a reminder of Ten Hag's no-nonsense, but productive, brand of man-management.

Garnacho, 18, who announced last month that he and his girlfriend Eva are expecting their first child, was left out of pre-season games by Ten Hag after being late to two team meetings on summer tour — a punishment that the equal-opportunities manager would later extend to senior pros such as Marcus Rashford, who was left out of the first meeting of the season with Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Ten Hag also dampened any praise for Garnacho after his early appearances, citing his need to maintain his focus and professionalism.

It was a message that, according to Garnacho's mentor, Bruno Fernandes, obviously had the desired effect.

"That message was from the manager, it wasn't from me, I just heard what the manager said," Fernandes said. "What I have to say to Garnacho, I say to him at the training ground, whenever we are eating, on the training ground, wherever. If he wants to hear, he hears. If not, he doesn't, but I try to help.

"I think he did an interview talking about me trying to help him a lot of times, and that's what I'm trying to do.

"Obviously, as I said, he's still young, and I don't want to give too many compliments, because you know, when you're young, you get too many compliments, you can get a little bit relaxed, because we need this Alejandro coming on and making goals, making assists, getting back to recover balls — everything. But I think if he wasn't doing what he needed to do, he wouldn't be playing.

"At the beginning of the season, the manager didn't give him many chances, because he thought that he wasn't being the best, and now he's getting his chances.

"He's been getting his chances and playing a lot this season because he's training well and doing what he has to do and he's getting his rewards and the team are getting the rewards as well, and that's the most important thing."

The comparison with Antony could not be starker even if, with only four Premier League starts to Garnachho's name, the sample size of evidence is still small, if growing.

Garnacho's goal against Wolves was his third, to go with two assists, in a Premier League career that now covers 462 minutes over 18 appearances. For Antony, his assist for Anthony Martial's opener against Wolves, was also his second for United in the league, while his four goals have come in 1,689 minutes, spread over 23 appearances.

Saturday was a microcosm of Antony's potential and too-often frustrating end product; a series of off-target efforts and poor decision-making such as a three-on-one break he wasted late in the first half, just minutes after his selfless assist had led to the opening goal.

It is fair to say that United support, a keen judge of young talent down the years, is divided on Antony while their backing of, and enthusiasm for, Garnacho, who this time last year was scoring twice as his team beat Nottingham Forest in the FA Youth Cup final, is unequivocally pro.

That attitude towards Garnacho is one clearly reflected in the United dressing room although, ever the watchful "senior pro", the praise from Fernandes comes with a high degree of caution.

"Obviously we know 'Garna' can change games, he plays with pace, he can take players one against one, but he's still developing himself," Fernandes said.

"So we don't have to push too much on him, because he's still a young kid. He can do great things, but in the future he has to do much better than he is actually doing, because he has the capabilities to be even better than he currently is.

"He's been doing amazingly for the first season he's been playing in the Premier League, with more minutes, with more consistency, he's doing great, but we all know he can do much for us."



Garnacho celebrates his goal and impending fatherhood on another mixed day for Antony

HOW WINGERS COMPARE

	Antony	Garnacho
Games	23	16
Starts	16	4
Goals	4	3
Assists	2	2
Chances created	27	2
Min/goal or assist	284	91

WINTER'S WEEKEND WONDERS



Chief Football Writer on Poch, Posh and a Wembley tale of two 'keepers

Engaging Pochettino still has a point to prove

1 Mauricio Pochettino. He's a sound appointment by Chelsea. What not to like? He plays attractive football, backs young players, is multilingual (important in a modern dressing room), handles egos, is hugely popular with club boards (mainly), staff and supporters. The media loves Poch because he engages, and not simply around games, but for a quiet coffee and a chat here and there. Yet the 51-year-old Argentinian arrives at Stamford Bridge still with something to prove, partly to Chelsea supporters, because of his Tottenham Hotspur connections (and those fixtures will be livelier than usual), but also to the game generally. Pochettino has all the capabilities, but it is now about delivering trophies more substantial than Ligue 1 and the Coupe de France. First jobs: reduce squad size, rekindle hunger, recruit a reliable goalkeeper, appoint a new captain and hope for some patience.

Cooper can pull off one of season's great feats



2 Steve Cooper. Regardless of Chelsea's psychologically frail state, Nottingham Forest's draw with Chelsea was a very good point. With seven points from a possible last 12, Cooper masterminds important results at a vital time. Forest's head coach makes bold calls, such as bringing Joe Worrall into a back five against Chelsea, starting Brennan Johnson on the bench and finding more defensive strength. Building a cohesive team from the waves of signings, some of whom speak little English, is an achievement in itself by Cooper. Keeping that team up would be one of the finest managerial feats of the season.

Bold Notts County manager's gamble pays off

3 Luke Williams. Notts County's head coach deserved elevation to the EFL not simply for accruing an astonishing 107 points and still not gaining automatic promotion because of Wrexham's excellence. The 42-year-old Londoner also merits it for bold decision-making, such as swapping his goalkeepers for the shoot-out, in which Archie Mair, the replacement, saved two penalties. He deserves it for his man-management, reflected in his handling of Cedwyn Scott after he missed his penalty at the Racecourse Ground last month. Williams spoke to Scott outside the stadium, lifted his spirits and told him he would have his chance. When Notts County needed Scott most at Wembley, the substitute knew he had the belief of his head coach and he calmly converted the decisive penalty in the shoot-out. A good team and manager have risen to League Two.

Ward-Prowse deserves move to better-run club

4 James Ward-Prowse. Some Southampton fans were upset about their captain's "slipping standards" interview on BBC Sport. They argued that it should be part of his responsibility to ensure players delivered. Yet Ward-Prowse's own standards have remained high, which is why he deserves his chance to play for a more ambitious, better-run club.

Ferguson's drive and hunger runs in family

5 Darren Ferguson. Peterborough United's 4-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday in the first leg of their League One play-off semi-final on Friday was one of the most remarkable results of the season. Ferguson's hunger inspires players, and Peterborough have hit form at the right time. That drive is in the Ferguson family DNA.

‘Hopefully I won’t need to score again’

Alisson has been vital for Liverpool this season but, he tells Paul Joyce, he hopes not to need to venture forward again

Barely a week goes by without Alisson coming across a clip of the stunning header that breathed life into Liverpool’s last frantic scramble for Champions League qualification.

It was two years ago tomorrow that the goalkeeper bounded forward for a 95th-minute corner away to West Bromwich Albion and, when everything was on the line, rose like a seasoned centre forward to seal a remarkable 2-1 victory.

The replay never gets old. “A lot of times when I look on Twitter for news, it appears in my timeline, that goal,” he says, with a smile. “I don’t remember when exactly, but this week I watched it already.

“It’s good. It made me feel good. It makes me think how crazy it is that I scored a goal.”

Liverpool will be indebted to Alisson once more should they gatecrash the top four this month, though this time a place among Europe’s elite will have been achieved by more conventional means.

The 30-year-old has been the one constant in a campaign of jarring inconsistency from Jürgen Klopp’s side. That he has prevented 9.30 goals, the most in the top flight, underlines how often he has been called upon to bail out team-mates before tonight’s game away to the relegation-threatened Leicester City.

In addition, there have been 31 big saves, while Alisson has the most sweeping actions outside the area of any Premier League goalkeeper this season (73), with those typically the furthest away from goal (19.3 yards).

The opportunity to showcase himself has been grasped, though it leaves him with mixed feelings.

“I depend on defenders a lot and when they are playing well I can play even better,” he says. “But sometimes the goalie’s performance comes out when the team is not playing so good and conceding more chances.

MANCHESTER CITY FC/GETTY IMAGES



Alisson’s recent form has propelled Liverpool’s late charge, much like his goal against West Brom in 2021, below



“I think that happened a lot of times during the season. The team wasn’t playing in a consistent way defensively.”

Klopp will address that in the summer, with strategic signings designed to bring more structure to Liverpool’s midfield, and thus greater protection, while there has also been a focus during the run-in on rediscovering the non-negotiables that once made them so difficult to play against.

There may be a back-up goalkeeper to buy too, if Caoimhin Kelleher looks for more regular football, but the No 1 jersey is in reassuringly safe hands.

Alisson brought up a century of clean sheets for Liverpool in last weekend’s win over Brentford. It is an achievement that leaves him beaming with pride, although there has not been time, as yet, to hang on a wall at his home the black “A Becker 100” jersey with which he was presented by Klopp as a memento of the landmark.

A case study of his prowess came in the recent 1-0 victory over Fulham at Anfield. Liverpool were under increasing pressure and the visiting forward Carlos Vinícius threatened in the dying embers, until Alisson thrust out his right arm to repel a close-range shot.

“When I make a save like that, John Achterberg [Liverpool’s goalkeeper coach] always says it is a match-winning save,” Alisson adds, his black beard a little bushier than normal.

“We prepare for that in training every day. In a game I have one or two occasions like that but in training during the week I have so many, just to prepare for that moment.

“It means a lot, even if I don’t realise how big 100 clean sheets is now. Maybe in the future I will. I’m not the kind of guy who is really obsessed with numbers. This is not a job exclusive to myself, it’s a job of the team of the players, the defenders mainly, the goalie coach department, everybody, the staff. It’s a teamwork clean sheet. My face is there but it’s the teamwork.

“One hundred is a lot for me now, but in comparison to the great goalies in Liverpool’s history it is not even 50 per cent of what they achieved. They got over 200 clean sheets. I don’t know if I can play as many matches as them.

“I think Ray [Clemence] had over 600 matches for Liverpool and I don’t know if I can play that amount here, but I’m already looking forward to the next 50 or 100 clean sheets, and for the next one in the next match we have.

“It would be special to be alongside them or to beat them. I admire a lot what the great goalies did, but I’m writing my own story here at Liverpool and I’m focused on that.”

There have been uncomfortable moments for the Brazil international at the King Power Stadium previously: a Cruyff turn went wrong in a 2-1 win soon after he signed from Roma for £65 million in the summer of 2018, and there was a mix-up with his defence in a 3-1 loss two years ago.

Yet to keep the pressure on Newcastle United and Manchester United, Liverpool must be on point.

“The situation we are in, we need teams in front of us to drop points to get in the Champions League,” he said. “It has similar challenges [to 2020-21], many injuries to important players, and that season it was really because of the effort that we could achieve things.

“We weren’t playing brilliantly then, and now we are playing really good, if you see the last six games we won.

“I know now I can head a ball in a good way, but hopefully we are not going to need it again!”

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EDDIE KEOGH/GETTY IMAGES



The Chelsea players celebrate at Wembley with the FA Cup after their 1-0 victory against United. Kerr, inset, stabbed home from close range Harder's low cross before celebrating with a cartwheel and a back flip

Hayes: Cup gives whole club a lift

Chelsea	Man United
1	0
Kerr 68	

RATINGS
Chelsea (4-3-3): A-K Berger 7 — E Périsset 7, M Mjelde 8, M Eriksson 7, N Charles 6 (J Carter 72min) — M Leupolz 6 (P Harder 57, 9), E Cuthbert 7, J Fleming 6 (S Ingle 57, 7) — L James 8 (K Buchanan 88), S Kerr 8, G Reiten 7. **Booked** Reiten, Charles, Ingle, James.
Manchester United (4-3-3): M Earps 7 — O Batlle 7, M Turner 6, M Le Tissier 6, H Blundell 6 (L Garcia 79) — K Zelem 6, H Ladd 5 (M Thomas 90+1), E Toone 8 (A Mannion 79) — N Parris 8 (R Williams 61, 6), A Russo 7, L Galton 7.
Referee E Heaslip. **Attendance** 77,390.

WOMEN'S FA CUP FINAL
MOLLY HUDSON

Two years ago, before a pivotal Champions League semi-final, Emma Hayes showed her Chelsea team footage of Rose Namajunas, the UFC fighter. As she entered the Octagon, she muttered to herself: "I am the best."

Hayes wanted her side to embody that spirit and become mentality monsters. She no longer needs to go to those lengths to inspire her side — they simply look at one another in the dressing room and have an inherent belief, as a squad littered with serial winners.

Their 1-0 victory over Manchester United was decided by a goal from Sam Kerr. That in itself was inevitable — the forward now has ten goals in seven major domestic cup finals for Chelsea — and her favourite stadium is Wembley, because she has won a trophy on every visit.

Last weekend she carried the flag for Australia at the King's coronation. This week she watched Prince William present her side with the FA Cup trophy. Rubbing shoulders with royalty is becoming a habit. This was Chelsea's third successive FA Cup success, an unprecedented level of dominance in a landscape more competitive than ever. "I'm a football fan, I've watched how much our football club has suffered this year, we've had ownership changes, the men's team hasn't been brilliant. I hope they [the fans] have a little joy tonight, something they can smile about this year, the whole club, owners included," Hayes said.

"Our team has been in transition. This year I've tried to get as many players as many opportunities to keep developing their experiences in all areas of the pitch, and to win knowing we're in that stage… This is far and away my most memorable FA Cup final."

Marc Skinner had urged his United side to behave in an unemotional, business-style manner despite the differing surroundings, but you do not get to shake hands with a prince before a game at Leigh Sports Village.

A world-record attendance for a domestic women's match of 77,390 poured into Wembley to watch the biggest match in United's history, but Chelsea's experience told. The number was impressive despite more than 10,000 no-shows, with the match billed as a sell-out.

For United a cup final was new territory, the culmination of a remarkable journey from their formation in 2018 to contending for a league and cup double.

While the two sides are separated by only one point in the Women's Super League table — United are ahead, but Chelsea have a game in hand — there is a chasm of experience between them. "We've played here more times than Stamford Bridge," Hayes said. "Yes, it's home."

She has been Chelsea manager for double the length of time United have even existed as a professional club.

BIG GAME PLAYER

Sam Kerr has scored ten goals in seven domestic cup finals for Chelsea

Final	Opponent	Goals
League Cup (2019-20)	Arsenal	0
FA Cup (2020-21)	Arsenal	2
League Cup (2020-21)	Bristol City	3
League Cup (2021-22)	Manchester City	1
FA Cup (2021-22)	Manchester City	2
League Cup (2022-23)	Arsenal	1
FA Cup (2022-23)	Manchester United	1

SERIAL WINNERS

Emma Hayes's league and FA Cup record at Chelsea

Season	League pos	FA Cup
2012	6th	n/a
2013	7th	Fifth round
2014	2nd	Semi-final
2015	1st	★ Winners
2016	2nd	Runners-up
2016-17	1st	Semi-final
2017-18	1st	★ Winners
2018-19	3rd	Semi-final
2019-20	1st	Quarter-finals
2020-21	1st	★ Winners
2021-22	1st	★ Winners
2022-23	2nd	★ Winners

Avram Glazer, part of the family who own Manchester United, was in the Wembley stands to see the product of their belated investment. Four players started who were part of the very first team, announced in 2018, who steamrolled the Championship, the second tier, that season. That remains their only trophy.

United have since been battling for supremacy in the league against the established top three of Chelsea, Manchester City and Arsenal. This season they have finally closed the gap.

Within 25 seconds they had the ball in the net, after Leah Galton finished Ella Toone's cross, before the assistant referee's flag was raised to disallow it for the latter's involvement from an offside position.

United had the better of the first-half chances, with Millie Turner's deflected effort saved and Galton blazing over from close range. United dominated possession but this was not unfamiliar territory for Hayes's side. The England internationals Fran Kirby and Millie Bright were absent with knee injuries and that has caused them to become a largely counterpunching side, comfortable without the ball and excelling on the break, through the tireless Kerr.

It was her strike partner, Lauren James, who came the closest for them in the first half, her header pushed on to the bar by the goalkeeper Mary Earps.

The half ended as it began, with a United chance, as the impressive Nikita Parris weaved past Niamh Charles before going down in the area. The referee adjudged the contact to have ended just outside the box.

Pernille Harder has been sidelined for six months with a hamstring injury and is working her way back to full match fitness, but her introduction in the 57th minute changed the game.

She gave Chelsea an additional option up front, connecting midfield and attack, and as she sprinted down the right flank, with Kerr lingering in the area, there was only going to be one outcome. Kerr timed her run to perfection to slot home the cross.

"The reality is we switched off for a second," Skinner admitted. "A throw-in goes into midfield and they play behind your line and that's really all Chelsea do.

"They do set pieces and play behind you and they're very, very good at it, probably one of the best teams in the world at it, so that's not disrespectful. They've won the game on it."



As Kerr's team-mates ran to congratulate her, she asked them for a little space. Even for a striker so prolific, this moment was worthy of special celebration, springing into a cartwheel and then her trademark backflip.

If they win their league game in hand, against West Ham United on Wednesday, Chelsea will leapfrog United to go top of the table. Breaking into the top three has been difficult for United, but surpassing Chelsea will be even harder.

Carrick rues Akpom's misses that leave tie finely balanced

Coventry City	Mid'brough
0	0

RATINGS
Coventry City (3-5-2): B Wilson 7 — L McNally 6, K McFadzean 7, C Doyle 6 — B Norton-Cuffy 6, L Kelly 6, J Eccles 6 (J Allen 67, 6), G Hamer 6, J Bidwell 6 — V Gyokeres 6, M Godden 6.
Middlesbrough (4-2-3-1): Z Steffen 7 — T Smith 7, P McNair 7, D Lenihan 7, R Giles 7 — A Mowatt 7, H Hackney 7 — I Jones 7 (M Forss 68, 6), C Akpom 8, R McGree 7 — C Archer 6 (M Crooks 83).
Booked Akpom.
Referee R Madley. **Attendance** 28,874.

JAMES WILLIAMSON/GETTY IMAGES



Jones gets in a shot for Middlesbrough on an afternoon when both sides failed to take their chances at the CBS Arena

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP
GREGOR ROBERTSON

Honours even, then, at the halfway point of a Sky Bet Championship play-off semi-final which, despite a goalless 90 minutes at the CBS Arena, is intriguingly poised.

Middlesbrough dominated for an hour but were guilty of profligacy in front of goal. Coventry City improved in the second half but failed to land a shot on target and yet will travel to the Riverside Stadium on Wednesday knowing that the final at Wembley on May 27 is still very much in reach.

Chuba Akpom, Middlesbrough's elusive, classy No 10 and, after 28 goals this season, the Championship's player of the year, went closest, with chances in either half. Isaiah Jones, the Middlesbrough winger, found the net five minutes before half-time, only for his effort to be ruled out for offside — just — by the assistant.

"We did a lot of good things in the game — it comes down to the chances, that little bit of cutting edge," Michael Carrick, the Middlesbrough head coach, said.

"For the boys who had them, it was one of those days. Hopefully they'll take the next ones. We tried to win the game, but in the back of our minds, we know it's two legs, and we'll look forward to the next game."

This was always likely to be a tie of fine margins, given that Coventry's goalkeeper, Ben Wilson, registered 20 clean sheets this season and Middlesbrough hit 84 league goals, their best return in more than half a century, 65 of which came after Carrick's arrival in October.

"I said to the players in there, 'We're in it,' and that's the big thing," Mark Robins, the Coventry manager, said. "We've still got a chance, and this is how hard you've got to work to get to a Wembley final. They are the favourites now. But they were anyway — and rightly so."

Both teams were unchanged from their meeting at the Riverside a week ago, a 1-1 draw that confirmed Coventry's place in the play-offs. Who would have thought, though, when the sides met here back in October, that both would end the regular season three games away from the Premier League?

Coventry's 1-0 win that day spelt the end for Chris Wilder, then the Boro manager, and prompted the remarkable renaissance under Carrick, the former Manchester United midfielder. For Coventry, the first win of a season they began without a pitch fit to play on still left them rooted to the foot of the table.

Some mischievous Coventry fans were believed to have set off fireworks outside Middlesbrough's team hotel in the early hours of Sunday morning, yet Carrick was quick to play down any impact — "I woke up, had a little chuckle and went back to sleep," he said — and his side quickly asserted control in a raucous CBS Arena.

Their passing was slick and, when the opportunity arose, incisive. Twelve minutes in, after a smart exchange in midfield, Riley McGree found Akpom inside the penalty area, but the former Arsenal youth player's effort, thanks to the efforts of Wilson, clipped the crossbar.

Hayden Hackney was next to carve open the home defence and it took a fine recovery by Callum Doyle, Coventry's on-loan Manchester City defender, to block Jones's cross in the penalty area.

Coventry, with the 21-goal Viktor Gyokeres leading the line, have been lethal on the break this season, yet were reduced to hopeful forward balls. Their captain, Liam Kelly — the sole survivor from their League Two play-off victory in 2018 — drove his side forward and had a shot blocked; from the rebound, the lively Gustavo Hamer's effort narrowly evaded Matt Godden on its way wide of the target.

"We turned over the ball too often in the first half," Robins said. "In the second half, we came on to them and did better and had a 15-20 minute spell when we pinned them in a little bit, could have fashioned a chance, created something to get a clear strike away, but we didn't. But it's a decent position to be in going into Wednesday."

Jones latched on to a defence-splitting pass by Tommy Smith just before half-time, but the assistant's flag had already been raised. Akpom then had a glorious chance the other side of the interval, but glanced Ryan Giles's cross narrowly wide.

Middlesbrough, though, are yet to draw a blank at the Riverside under Carrick. "We know we've got good players at the top end of the pitch who are capable of scoring," he said. "It's not going to be easy, but we've got to have faith and trust in the boys — and we'll definitely have that."

Pritchard relishing trip to 'hostile' Kenilworth

After beating Luton Town 2-1 in the Sky Bet Championship play-off semi-final, first leg in front of more than 46,000 fans at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland are set for a different challenge tomorrow at Kenilworth Road, which holds less than 11,000.

"It is a nice place to go, I love it," the Sunderland midfielder Alex Pritchard said. "It's a proper English stadium. These are the games you want to go to. The Stadium of Light is unbelievable, but you go down there and it's just different and unique. We know it's going to be hostile."

Evatt: Young Trafford can go to the very top

The Bolton Wanderers manager, Ian Evatt, expects James Trafford to have a bright future after his saves helped the North West club draw 1-1 at home to Barnsley in their League One play-off semi-final, first leg on Saturday.

Trafford, 20, is a Manchester City loanee and has kept a Bolton record of 26 clean sheets this season.

"James made some wonderful saves, but he's the best goalie in the league for a reason," Evatt said. "Age is only a number for me. If he's a goalkeeper of that quality you want him in any game. I think he'll go to the very top."

Veteran Smith happy to roll back the years

Neil Wood helped 17 academy players to reach the first team at Manchester United, but he has been willing to lean on experience since becoming the Salford City head coach last May.

Matt Smith, 33, headed in the goal to give Salford a 1-0 first-leg win at home to Stockport County in the League Two play-offs on Saturday. At the back, Adrian Mariappa, 36, helped secure a clean sheet for the club owned by United's "Class of '92".

"I'm a bit of a fossil at 33 now, but still hanging on in there," Smith joked.

Walker puts Bradford in play-off box seat

Mark Hughes's Bradford City secured a narrow first-leg victory in their League Two play-off semi-final against Carlisle United yesterday, with Jamie Walker's well-taken first-half goal proving the difference.

Walker forced through the middle to drive under Tomas Holy after the visitors had failed to deal with a long kick from the goalkeeper Harry Lewis.

Carlisle could have taken Bradford back to Cumbria on Saturday on level terms had Ryan Edmondson, the substitute, taken late chances.

National League proves best asset is its unscripted drama

KIT SHEPARD

With 38,000 fans emotionally spent, an entire season on the line and Notts County flirting with an awfully cruel play-off loss, John Bostock had the temerity to pull out the Panenka. His chipped penalty hit the crossbar and could have sent Chesterfield up instead of County, but by the standards of the 2022-23 National League, it was typically ridiculous.

Saturday's play-off final was an incredible climax to a campaign in which the fifth tier has frequently left English football followers in awe. Part of the rise is due to increased attention and, in that sense, the *Welcome to Wrexham* documentary has been brilliant for the league. Detailed yet humorous, it has taken the National League global.

But for all the clever, calculated storytelling of the Disney+ show, the National League's greatest asset is its unscripted drama. Over the past five weeks, the league has had at least four occasions that have gripped the masses.

Wrexham signing Ben Foster may have looked like a forced gimmick, but the goalkeeper-cum-YouTuber then saved a 97th-minute penalty from Notts County's Cedwyn Scott on Easter Monday, giving his team a 3-2 win and a decisive edge in the amazing title race.

There were then the raucous scenes at the Racecourse Ground on the night that Wrexham ended 15 years outside the Football League. The champions overcame a horrendous start against Boreham Wood to get the victory they needed, with Paul Mullin's screamer driving them to glory. As an international audience tuned in and Ryan Reynolds waxed lyrical about Boreham Wood's defensive statistics, it all felt rather surreal.

And then came Saturday's chaotic play-off final. We had an inexplicably muddled goal kick in the second minute, crunching tackles, fluky goals, Armando Dobra's wonderful strike, a 120th-minute goalkeeping substitution and the drama of the penalty shoot-out.

Even Bostock's miss worked perfectly, allowing Scott to dispatch the winning penalty and complete a redemption arc that must have had Reynolds and Rob McElhenney gushing.



Kyle Cameron lifts the play-off trophy after County's win

Their series on the 2022-23 campaign writes itself.

All this entertainment has also drawn focus to the National League's significant structural flaw: only one automatic promotion spot.

As compelling as County's win at Wembley was, it would have been galling had they not gone up, having earned 107 points, 23 more than Chesterfield. The issue is so glaring that Paul Cook, the Chesterfield manager, addressed it without being asked after the final.

"It is an absolute sporting disgrace," he said. "We should look at how we go forward with two teams going up automatically and one through the play-offs."

The case for an additional spot goes beyond sporting integrity. Wrexham, Notts County and Chesterfield — the top three in this season's National League — lost £7 million between them over 2021-22, while historic clubs such as Southend United and Scunthorpe United have suffered economic turmoil.

Keeping hold of Macaulay Langstaff after his record-breaking 42-goal season may be a challenge. Nevertheless, by getting one of those two promotion spots, the County manager, Luke Williams, can feel emboldened. "It feels like we completed one year of work," he said, "It doesn't feel like we have arrived at our destination."

Premier League

	P	Home W	D	L	F	A	Away W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
▶ 1 Manchester City	35	16	1	1	59	17	11	3	3	33	14	61	85
▶ 2 Arsenal	36	13	3	2	48	25	12	3	3	35	17	41	81
▶ 3 Newcastle United	35	10	5	2	32	13	8	7	3	31	18	32	66
▶ 4 Manchester United	35	13	3	1	30	8	7	3	8	21	33	10	66
▶ 5 Liverpool	35	13	4	1	45	16	5	4	8	22	26	25	62
▲ 6 Brighton & Hove Albion	34	9	3	5	33	19	8	4	5	33	26	21	58
▼ 7 Tottenham	36	12	1	5	36	22	5	5	8	29	37	6	57
▶ 8 Aston Villa	36	11	2	5	31	20	6	4	8	17	24	4	57
▶ 9 Brentford	36	9	7	2	34	18	4	7	7	20	27	9	53
▶ 10 Fulham	36	8	4	6	29	27	7	2	9	23	22	3	51
▶ 11 Chelsea	35	6	6	6	19	18	5	4	8	17	23	-5	43
▶ 12 Crystal Palace	36	7	6	5	20	22	4	4	10	17	24	-9	43
▶ 13 Wolverhampton Wanderers	36	9	2	7	18	19	2	5	11	12	33	-22	40
▶ 14 Bournemouth	36	6	4	8	20	27	5	2	11	17	42	-32	39
▶ 15 West Ham United	36	7	4	7	23	23	3	3	12	15	29	-14	37
▶ 16 Nottingham Forest	36	7	6	5	26	24	1	4	13	10	43	-31	34
▶ 17 Everton	36	5	3	10	15	27	2	8	8	17	29	-24	32
▲ 18 Leeds United	36	5	7	6	25	33	2	3	13	21	38	-25	31
▼ 19 Leicester City	35	4	4	9	21	23	4	2	12	28	41	-15	30
▶ 20 Southampton (R)	36	2	4	12	15	33	4	2	12	16	33	-35	24

Sky Bet Championship

	P	Home W	D	L	F	A	Away W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Burnley (C)	46	16	6	1	49	15	13	8	2	38	20	52	101
2 Sheffield United (P)	46	16	3	4	47	19	12	4	7	26	20	34	91
3 Luton Town	46	10	9	4	31	21	11	8	4	26	18	18	80
4 Middlesbrough	46	13	7	3	46	19	9	2	12	38	37	28	75
5 Coventry City	46	11	7	5	30	24	7	9	7	28	22	12	70
6 Sunderland	46	7	9	7	33	33	11	6	6	35	22	13	69
7 Blackburn Rovers	46	13	4	6	27	19	7	5	11	25	35	-2	69
8 Millwall	46	11	6	6	34	22	8	5	10	23	28	7	68
9 West Bromwich Albion	46	11	7	5	31	20	7	5	11	28	33	6	66
10 Swansea City	46	11	4	8	38	32	7	8	8	30	32	4	66
11 Watford	46	11	6	6	35	23	5	9	9	21	30	3	63
12 Preston North End	46	7	7	9	20	28	10	5	8	25	31	-14	63
13 Norwich City	46	8	5	10	27	27	9	6	8	30	27	3	62
14 Bristol City	46	9	7	7	30	24	6	7	10	25	32	-1	59
15 Hull City	46	9	6	8	24	27	5	10	8	27	34	-10	58
16 Stoke City	46	6	5	12	25	27	8	6	9	30	27	1	53
17 Birmingham City	46	7	6	10	24	24	7	5	11	23	34	-11	53
18 Huddersfield Town	46	9	6	8	26	25	5	5	13	21	37	-15	53
19 Rotherham United	46	9	6	8	37	30	2	11	10	12	30	-11	50
20 Queens Park Rangers	46	6	5	12	21	35	7	6	10	23	36	-27	50
21 Cardiff City	46	6	7	10	20	24	7	3	13	21	34	-17	49
22 *Reading (R)	46	10	8	5	31	24	3	3	17	15	44	-22	44
23 Blackpool (R)	46	6	6	11	28	34	5	5	13	20	38	-24	44
24 †Wigan Athletic (R)	46	5	7	11	17	35	5	8	10	21	30	-27	42

deducted *6pts/†3pts for breaching EFL rules

Sky Bet League One

	P	Home W	D	L	F	A	Away W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Plymouth Argyle (C)	46	20	1	2	44	16	11	7	5	38	31	35	101
2 Ipswich (P)	46	16	6	1	60	13	12	8	3	41	22	66	98
3 Sheffield Wednesday	46	16	6	1	49	16	12	6	5	32	21	44	96
4 Barnsley	46	16	1	6	45	24	10	7	6	35	23	33	86
5 Bolton Wanderers	46	14	5	4	32	13	9	7	7	30	23	26	81
6 Peterborough United	46	13	4	6	38	25	11	1	11	37	29	21	77
7 Derby County	46	13	6	4	40	20	8	7	8	27	26	21	76
8 Portsmouth	46	9	11	3	34	22	8	8	7	27	28	11	70
9 Wycombe Wanderers	46	11	5	7	32	24	9	4	10	27	27	8	69
10 Charlton Athletic	46	9	7	7	44	31	7	7	9	26	35	4	62
11 Lincoln City	46	7	14	2	22	17	7	6	10	25	30	0	62
12 Shrewsbury Town	46	11	3	9	32	32	6	5	12	20	29	-9	59
13 Fleetwood Town	46	7	8	8	25	25	7	8	8	28	26	2	58
14 Exeter City	46	10	5	8	36	27	5	6	12	28	41	-4	56
15 Burton Albion	46	9	7	7	28	33	6	4	13	29	46	-22	56
16 Cheltenham Town	46	8	8	7	25	27	6	4	13	20	34	-16	54
17 Bristol Rovers	46	6	7	10	27	36	8	4	11	31	37	-15	53
18 Port Vale	46	8	5	10	23	30	5	5	13	25	41	-23	49
19 Oxford United	46	6	5	12	29	31	5	9	9	20	25	-7	47
20 Cambridge United	46	9	4	10	24	26	4	3	16	17	42	-27	46
21 Milton Keynes Dons (R)	46	4	7	12	20	33	7	5	11	24	33	-22	45
22 Morecambe (R)	46	8	8	7	30	31	2	6	15	17	47	-31	44
23 Accrington Stanley (R)	46	6	5	12	27	39	5	6	12	13	38	-37	44
24 Forest Green Rovers (R)	46	5	2	16	15	42	1	7	15	16	47	-58	27

Sky Bet League Two

	P	Home W	D	L	F	A	Away W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Leyton Orient (C)	46	15	6	2	32	13	11	7	5	29	21	27	91
2 Stevenage (P)	46	17	2	4	40	16	7	11	5	21	23	22	85
3 Northampton Town (P)	46	12	6	5	31	20	11	8	4	31	22	20	83
4 Stockport County	46	11	9	3	32	16	11	4	8	33	21	28	79
5 Carlisle United	46	11	8	4	34	21	9	8	6	32	22	23	76
6 Bradford City	46	9	10	4	33	23	11	6	6	28	20	18	76
7 Salford City	46	10	5	8	28	23	12	4	7	44	31	18	75
8 Mansfield Town	46	9	8	6	37	31	12	4	7	35	24	17	75
9 Barrow	46	12	3	8	29	19	6	5	12	18	34	-6	62
10 Swindon Town	46	9	6	8	31	24	7	7	9	30	31	6	61
11 Grimsby Town	46	7	10	6	24	25	9	3	11	25	31	-7	61
12 Tranmere Rovers	46	10	6	7	27	20	5	7	11	18	28	-3	58
13 Crewe Alexandra	46	11	6	6	32	26	3	10	10	16	34	-12	58
14 Sutton United	46	11	5	7	26	21	4	8	11	20	37	-12	58
15 Newport County	46	6	7	10	27	30	8	8	7	26	26	-3	57
16 Walsall	46	9	9	5	28	19	3	10	10	18	30	-3	55
17 Gillingham	46	11	5	7	21	20	3	8	12	15	29	-13	55
18 Doncaster Rovers	46	11	1	11	27	30	5	6	12	19	35	-19	55
19 Harrogate Town	46	6	10	7	31	32	6	6	11	28	36	-9	52
20 Colchester United	46	6	9	8	25	23	6	4	13	19	28	-7	49
21 AFC Wimbledon	46	7	7	9	26	30	4	8	11	22	30	-12	48
22 Crawley Town	46	9	7	7	31	30	2	6	15	17	41	-23	46
23 Hartlepool United (R)	46	5	10	8	27	36	4	6	13	25	42	-26	43
24 Rochdale (R)	46	5	5	13	29	38	4	6	13	17	32	-24	38



Game in numbers

Bill Edgar on Haaland chasing Bly's record, if Hodgson is really doing better than Vieira and what Kane and Pahars have in common

'Big six' shooters

In Brighton & Hove Albion's past 18 matches against "big six" opponents they have scored 12 goals more than they have conceded. Their 3-0 win over Arsenal at the Emirates Stadium yesterday means that since Bonfire Night they have scored 12 more goals away from home than Chelsea have scored anywhere (33 to 21). Arsenal's past seven home defeats have come against Brighton (three), Manchester City or Liverpool (two each).

In Everton's past nine games they have won 5-1 away to Brighton and failed to win any of the other eight; in Brighton's past four matches they have suffered that 5-1 home defeat to Everton but have won the other three games, scoring ten goals to nil.

Treble on target

Brighton's three-goal salvo and Manchester City's three strikes in their victory away to Everton yesterday mean City will guarantee achieving their three-trophy target with three points from their remaining three league games and three wins (including any via a penalty shoot-out) in their potential three cup matches ahead.

City's Erling Haaland has joined Alf Lythgoe (Stockport County in 1933-34) and Steve Bull (Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1987-88) in scoring 52 goals for a league club in one season; the last to score more was Terry Bly, who hit 54 goals for Peterborough United in 1960-61. City are the first top-flight team since Preston North End in 1892 to win 14 domestic games in a row and score at least 44 goals in the process.



Like Haaland, Bull, right, scored 52 goals in a season

Trent teams' 2-2s

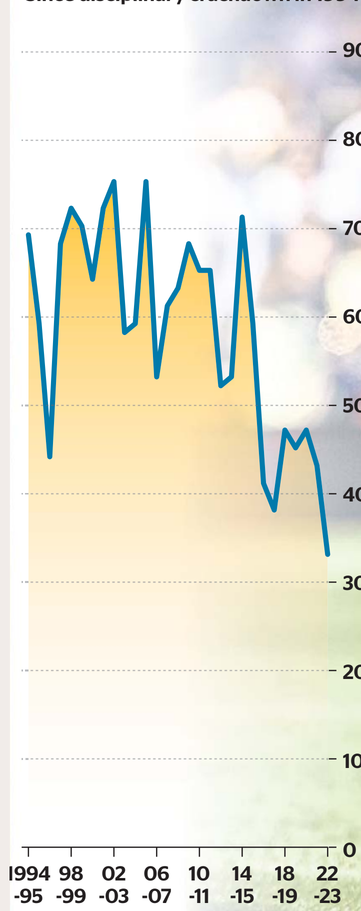
Nottingham Forest and Notts County, the city neighbours, both celebrated after drawing 2-2 against a "Che" team in London: Forest gained a point away to Chelsea; County beat Chesterfield in the National League play-off final at Wembley via a penalty shoot-out. County are the first club to win separate play-offs in which they have risen to the League (on Saturday) and the top flight (in 1991). Of the 120 single-match play-off finals played in the second to fifth tiers, County are the first to triumph

REDS IN RETREAT

The Premier League is on course for the fewest red cards in one season since Fifa's disciplinary crackdown ahead of the 1994 World Cup. With only 30 dismissals so far, this campaign is likely to be the first in that period with less than one dismissal per round of ten matches

Premier League red cards

Since disciplinary crackdown in 1994



*2022-23 projected from present 30

Results

Premier League

Arsenal (0) **0** — **Brighton** (0) **3**
60,139 — Enciso 51, Undav 86, Estupiñán 90+6

Aston Villa (1) **2** — **Tottenham** (0) **1**
Ramsey 8, Luiz 72 — Kane 90 (pen)
42,164

Brentford (2) **2** — **West Ham** (0) **0**
Mbeumo 20, Wissa 43
17,075

Chelsea (0) **2** — **Nottm Forest** (1) **2**
Sterling 51, 58 — Awoniyi 13, 62
40,030

C Palace (1) **2** — **Bournemth** (0) **0**
Eze 39, 58

Everton (0) **0** — **Man City** (2) **3**
39,376 — Gundogan 37, 51, Haaland 39

Leeds (1) **2** — **Newcastle** (1) **2**
Ayling 7, Kristensen 79 — Wilson 31, 69 (both pens)
36,955
Sent off: J Firpo (Leeds) 90+1

Man Utd (1) **2** — **Wolves** (0) **0**
Martial 32, Garnacho 90+4 — 73,570

Southmptn (0) **0** — **Fulham** (0) **2**
Vinicius 48, Mitrovic 72

Sky Bet play-offs: Semi-finals First leg: Championship

Coventry (0) **0** — **Middlesbro** (0) **0**
28,874

Sunderland (1) **2** — **Luton** (1) **1**
Diallo 39, Hume 63 — Adebayo 11
46,060

League One

Bolton (0) **1** — **Barnsley** (0) **1**
Charles 67 — Cadden 63
23,450

League Two

Bradford City (1) **1** — **Carlisle** (0) **0**
Walker 18 — 20,575

Salford (1) **1** — **Stockport** (0) **0**
Smith 17 — 3,923

Vanarama play-off finals National League

Chesterfield (1) **2** — **Notts Co** (0) **2**
Dallas 5 (pen), Dobra 93 — Bostock 87, Rodrigues 108
38,138
(aet; 1-1 after 90min; Notts County won 4-3 on pens)
at Wembley Stadium

North

Brackley (0) **0** — **Kidderminstr** (1) **2**
Hemmings 13, 60

South

Oxford City (4) **4** — **St Albans** (0) **0**
Fleet 4, McEachran 14, Ashby 30, Parker 45 — 3,100

Women's FA Cup final

Chelsea (0) **1** — **Man Utd** (0) **0**
Kerr 68 — 77,390
at Wembley Stadium

Cinch Scottish Premiership

Aberdeen (0) **0** — **Hibernian** (0) **0**
18,620

Dundee Utd (1) **1** — **Ross County** (1) **3**
McGrath 24 (pen) — White 1, 57, 72
10,138

Kilmarnock (0) **2** — **Livingston** (0) **0**
Vassell 48, Armstrong 64 (pen) — 5,051

Rangers (2) **3** — **Celtic** (0) **0**
Cantwell 5, Souttar 34, Sakala 70 — 50,104

St Johnstone (0) **0** — **Motherwell** (0) **2**
Van Veen 52 (pen), Mandron 90+3

St Mirren (2) **2** — **Hearts** (0) **2**
Shaughnessy 36, Strain 45+4 — Ginnelly 73, Shankland 90+6 (pen)
7,238
Sent off: P Haring (Hearts) 77

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Celtic (C)	35	31	2	2	105	28	77	95
Rangers	35	27	4	4	85	34	51	85
Aberdeen	35	17	3	15	52	53	-1	54
Hearts	35	14	7	14	58	53	5	49
Hibernian	35	14	6	15	51	53	-2	48
St Mirren	35	12	9	14	41	53	-12	45
Motherwell	35	12	7	16	48	48	0	43
Livingston	35	12	6	17	33	56	-23	42
St Johnstone	35	10	6	19	35	56	-21	36
Kilmarnock	35	9	7	19	31	60	-29	34
Ross County	35	9	6	20	33	53	-20	33
Dundee Utd	35	8	7	20	37	62	-25	31

Cinch play-offs: Championship Semi-finals, second leg

Falkirk (0) **0** — **Airdrieonians** (1) **1**
4,080 — McGill 42
(Airdrieonians win 7-2 on agg)

Hamilton (4) **5** — **Alloa** (2) **2**
Zanatta 37, 45, Winter 39, 45+1, 52 — Sammon 5, Scougall 32
1,353
Sent off: G Stanger (Dismissed) 24
(Hamilton win 5-3 on agg)

League One Semi-final, second leg

Dumbarton (0) **0** — **Annan** (0) **0**
296
(Annan win 6-0 on agg)

League Two: Final, first leg

Spartans (0) **1** — **Albion** (1) **1**
Sonkur 66 (og) — Graham 39
3,923

Scottish Women's Premier League Hibernian 1 Celtic 2; Hearts 0 Rangers 6; Hamilton 2 Aberdeen 1; Motherwell 2 Spartans 3; Dundee Utd 5 Glasgow Women 0; Glasgow City 2 Partick Thistle 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Glasgow City	31	26	2	3	111	18	93	80
Rangers	31	24	6	1	111	8	103	78
Celtic	31	25	3	3	113	11	102	78
Hearts	31	14	7	10	39	40	-1	49
Hibernian	31	10	6	15	52	50	2	36
Partick	31	9	5	17	41	71	-30	32
Spartans	31	15	6	10	46	51	-5	51
Motherwell	31	12	8	11	49	53	-4	44
Aberdeen	31	9	3	19	39	74	-35	30
Dundee Utd	31	8	4	19	44	75	-31	28
Hamilton	31	8	2	21	37	92	-55	26
Glasgow W	31	0	0	31	9	148	-139	0

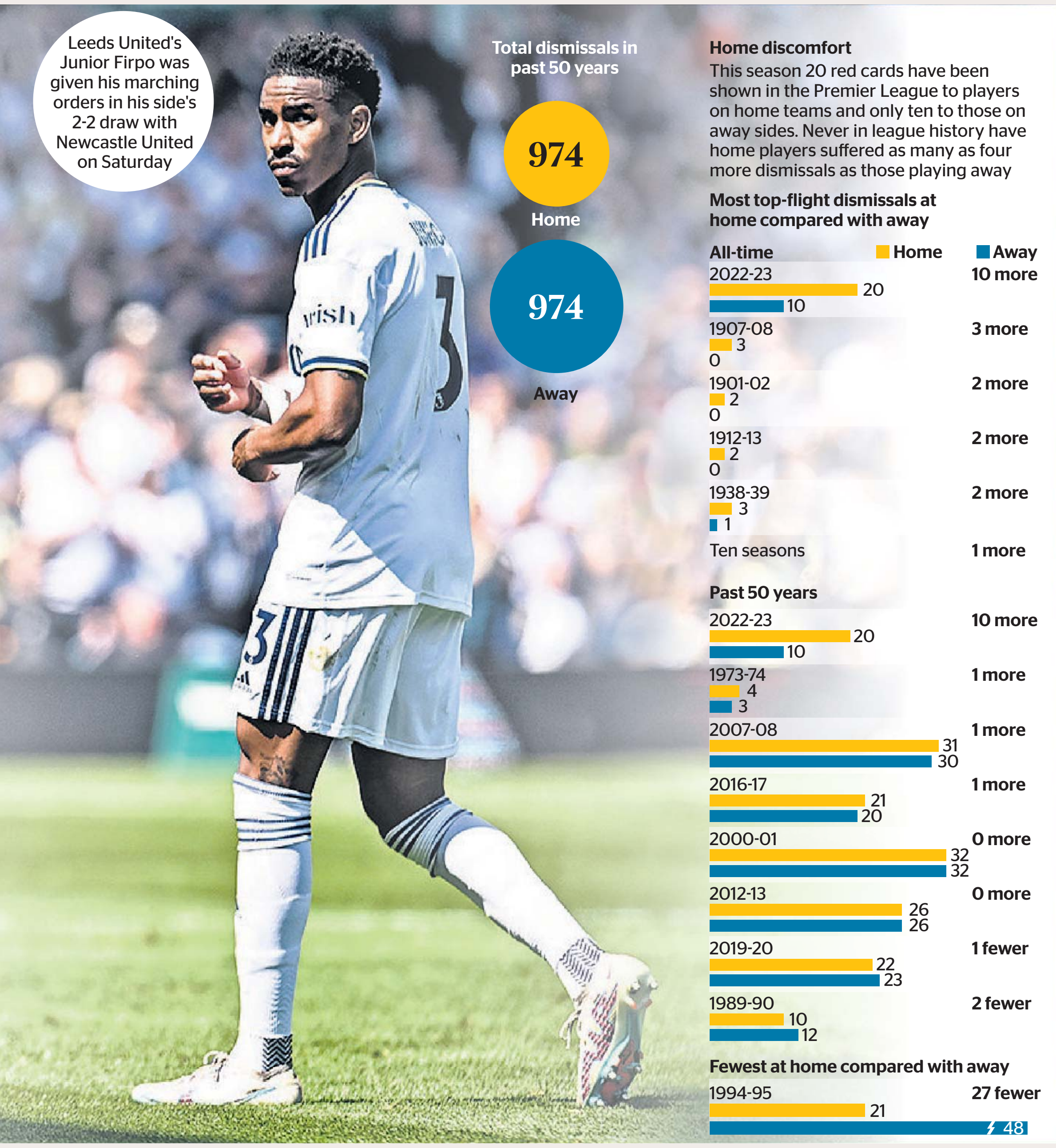
Welsh Premier League: Europa League play-off final Newtown 1 Haverfordwest County 1 (Haverfordwest County win 4-3 on pens).

Danske Bank Premiership: Europa League play-off final Glentoran 2 Cliftonville 0.

SSE Airtricity Premier division Sligo Rovers 0 Shelbourne 3. **First division** Longford 0 Treaty Utd 3.

French Ligue 1 Brest 1 Auxerre 0; Clermont 2 Lyon 1; Marseille 3 Angers 1; Monaco 0 Lille 0; Montpellier 1 Lorient 1; PSG 5 Ajaccio 0; Rennes 4 Troyes 0; Strasbourg 2 Nice 0; Toulouse 0 Nantes 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
PSG	35	26	3	6	84	35	49	81
Lens	35	22	9	4	59	27	32	75
Marseille	35	22	7	6	65	35	30	73
Monaco	35	19	8	8	68	51	17	65
Lille	35	17	9	9	60	41	19	60
Rennes	35	18	5	12	60	38	22	59
Lyon	35	16	8	11	58	43	15	56
Clermont	35	15	8	12	39	45	-6	53
Lorient	35	14	10	11	49	47	2	52
Nice	35	13	12	10	42	34	8	51
Reims	35	12	14	9	42	37	5	50



despite trailing for as long as 97 minutes in total during the game.

Spot of history

County were not the only Magpies to draw 2-2 on Saturday — Newcastle United did so against Leeds United. That fixture featured two firsts in the Premier League era: Leeds became the first team to fail from the spot and then see their opponents convert two penalties; and Leeds's Junior Firpo became the first player to give away and earn a penalty and also receive a red card in one match.

At three minutes and 23 seconds it was the shortest time between opponents taking a penalty in a top-flight match for four years. It was also the first Premier League game for seven years to feature three penalties and a red card. Botman met Robin at Elland Road: Newcastle's Sven Botman and Leeds's Robin Koch.

Fixture focus

Roy Hodgson has recorded five wins, one draw and two defeats since replacing Patrick Vieira as Crystal Palace manager, but the Frenchman was sacked after a long run against tough opponents and before a series of gentle fixtures. Vieira's record against those same eight opponents earlier this season? Five wins, one draw, two defeats.

Sad sequences

Tottenham Hotspur's nine-game winless away run is their longest for 22 years; Chelsea's seven-match winless home sequence is their worst for 35 years. Tottenham's Harry Kane is the first player since Southampton's Marian Pahars in 1999 to score in five consecutive top-flight away appearances yet not win any of them. Lewis Hall, who started for Chelsea, was born in Slough after the final episode of *The Office* (UK version) was first televised: that broadcast took place in 2003, and he was born in 2004.

Camp fortress

Barcelona have conceded only two league goals at home this season – a penalty and an own goal; but in February Manchester United scored twice in seven minutes in the Nou Camp in a Europa League game. Southampton and League Two club Northampton Town will have finished in the "south" and "north" of their tables (relegated and promoted respectively).


Notts County's Mair saves in the National League play-off final shoot-out

Fixtures

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Montpellier	35	13	5	17	57	58	-1	44
Toulouse	35	12	7	16	48	55	-7	43
Strasbourg	35	9	11	15	48	55	-7	38
Brest	35	9	11	15	39	50	-11	38
Auxerre	35	8	10	17	32	57	-25	34
Nantes	35	6	15	14	35	50	-15	33
Ajaccio (R)	35	6	5	24	22	66	-44	23
Troyes (R)	35	4	10	21	42	77	-35	22
Angers (R)	35	3	5	27	29	77	-48	14

German Bundesliga Bayern München 6 Schalke 0; Bochum 3 Augsburg 2; Borussia Dortmund 5 Borussia Mönchengladbach 2; Eintracht Frankfurt 3 Mainz 0; RB Leipzig 2 Werder Bremen 1; Stuttgart 1 Bayer Leverkusen 1; Union Berlin 4 Freiburg 2; Wolfsburg 2 Hoffenheim 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Bayern Munich	32	20	8	4	89	34	55	68
B Dortmund	32	21	4	7	78	42	36	67
RB Leipzig	32	18	6	8	57	38	19	60
Union Berlin	32	17	8	7	48	34	14	59
Freiburg	32	16	8	8	48	42	6	56
Wolfsburg	32	13	10	9	56	44	12	49
B Leverkusen	32	14	7	11	55	44	11	49
E Frankfurt	32	12	10	10	54	49	5	46
Mainz	32	12	9	11	51	49	2	45
Cologne	32	10	11	11	47	51	-4	41
B M'gladbach	32	10	9	13	48	53	-5	39
Werder Bremen	32	10	5	17	50	62	-12	35
Augsburg	32	9	7	16	42	58	-16	34
Hoffenheim	32	9	5	18	43	54	-11	32
Bochum	32	9	4	19	36	71	-35	31
Schalke	32	7	9	16	31	65	-34	30
Stuttgart	32	6	11	15	40	55	-15	29
Hertha Berlin	32	6	7	19	39	67	-28	25

Italian Serie A Bologna 0 Roma 0; Fiorentina 2 Udinese 0; Inter Milan 4 Sassuolo 2; Juventus 2 Cremonese 0; Monza 2 Napoli 0; Salernitana 1 Atalanta 0; Spezia 2 AC Milan 0; Verona 0 Torino 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Napoli (C)	35	26	5	4	70	25	45	83
Juventus	35	21	6	8	54	28	26	69
Inter Milan	35	21	3	11	66	37	29	66
Lazio	35	19	8	8	54	28	26	65
AC Milan	35	17	10	8	55	41	14	61
Roma	35	17	8	10	45	33	12	59
Atalanta	35	17	7	11	56	42	14	58
Fiorentina	35	13	10	12	47	40	7	49
Monza	35	13	10	12	44	45	-1	49
Torino	35	13	10	12	37	39	-2	49
Bologna	35	12	11	12	43	44	-1	47
Udinese	35	11	13	11	45	43	2	46
Sassuolo	35	12	8	15	43	54	-11	44
Empoli	34	9	11	14	31	44	-13	38
Salernitana	35	8	14	13	43	56	-13	38
Lecce	35	7	11	17	30	43	-13	32
Verona	35	7	9	19	28	52	-24	30
Spezia	35	6	12	17	30	56	-26	30
Cremonese	35	4	12	19	31	61	-30	24
Sampdoria (R)	34	3	8	23	20	61	-41	17

Spanish La Liga Celta Vigo 1 Valencia 2; Elche 1 Atlético Madrid 0; Espanyol 2 Barcelona 4; Osasuna 3 Almería 1; Real Madrid 1 Getafe 0; Real Sociedad 2 Girona 2; Real Valladolid 0 Sevilla 3; Villarreal 5 Athletic Bilbao 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Barcelona (C)	34	27	4	3	64	13	51	85
Real Madrid	34	22	5	7	70	32	38	71
Atlético	34	21	6	7	60	27	33	69
Real Sociedad	34	18	8	8	45	31	14	62
Villarreal	34	17	6	11	52	35	17	57
Real Betis	33	15	7	11	40	37	3	52
Girona	34	13	9	12	54	48	6	48
Ath Bilbao	34	13	8	13	44	38	6	47
Sevilla	34	13	8	13	44	49	-5	47
Osasuna	34	13	8	13	32	36	-4	47
R Vallecano	33	12	10	11	40	42	-2	46
Mallorca	34	12	8	14	33	37	-4	44
Celta Vigo	34	10	9	15	39	48	-9	39
Valencia	34	10	7	17	38	41	-3	37
Almería	34	10	6	18	43	61	-18	36
Cádiz	34	8	11	15	26	50	-24	35
R Valladolid	34	10	5	19	30	60	-30	35
Getafe	34	8	10	16	30	43	-13	34
Espanyol	34	7	10	17	42	60	-18	31
Elche (R)	34	4	7	23	26	64	-38	19

Kick-off 8.0 unless stated

Today

Premier League Leicester v Liverpool.

Tomorrow

Champions League: Semi-final, second leg Inter Milan (2) v AC Milan (0).

Sky Bet Championship play-offs: Semi-final, second leg Luton (1) v Sunderland (2).

Cinch League One play-offs: Final, first leg Annan v Clyde (7.35).

Wednesday

Champions League: Semi-final, second leg Manchester City (1) v Real Madrid (1).

Sky Bet Championship play-offs: Semi-final, second leg Middlesbrough (0) v Coventry (0).

Women's Super League Everton v Arsenal (6.15); West Ham v Chelsea (8.15).

Cinch Championship play-offs: Final, first leg Airdrieonians v Hamilton (7.35).

Thursday

Europa League: Semi-finals, second leg Bayer Leverkusen (0) v Roma (1); Sevilla (1) v Juventus (1).

Europa Conference League: Semi-finals, second leg AZ Alkmaar (1) v West Ham (2); Basel (2) v Fiorentina (1).

Premier League Newcastle v Brighton (7.30).

Sky Bet League One play-offs: Semi-final, second leg Sheffield Wednesday (0) v Peterborough (4).

Friday

Sky Bet League One play-offs: Semi-final, second leg Barnsley (1) v Bolton (1).

Cinch Scottish Premiership play-offs: Semi-final, first leg Partick Thistle v Ayr Utd (7.45).

Cinch League One play-offs: Final, second leg Clyde v Annan (7.35).

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Saturday

Premier League Bournemouth v Manchester Utd; Fulham v Crystal Palace; Liverpool v Aston Villa; Nottingham Forest v Arsenal (5.30); Tottenham v Brentford (12.30); Wolverhampton v Everton.

Sky Bet Two play-offs: Semi-finals, second leg Carlisle (0) v Bradford City (1); Stockport County (0) v Salford (1) (12.30).

Cinch Scottish Premiership Celtic v St Mirren; Hearts v Aberdeen (12.30); Kilmarnock v St Johnstone; Livingston v Dundee Utd; Motherwell v Ross Co.

Cinch play-offs: Finals, second leg: Championship Hamilton v Airdrieonians (5.15). **League Two** Albion Rovers (1) v The Spartans (1).

Kick-off 2.0 unless stated

Sunday

Premier League Brighton v Southampton; Manchester City v Chelsea (4.0); West Ham v Leeds (1.30).

FA Trophy final Halifax v Gateshead (4.15, at Wembley Stadium).

FA Vase final Ascot Utd v Newport Pagnell Town (12.15, at Wembley Stadium).

Women's Super League Aston Villa v Liverpool; Chelsea v Arsenal; Everton v Brighton; Leicester v West Ham; Manchester Utd v Manchester City; Tottenham v Reading.

Cinch Scottish Premiership Hibernian v Rangers (midday).

Feyenoord land first title for six years

Feyenoord wrapped up the Dutch title with two games to spare after a 3-0 win over Go Ahead Eagles in Rotterdam yesterday. The win sparked wild celebrations in the city, as Arne Slot's team sealed the Eredivisie for the first time since 2017.

The scenes were a stark contrast to those at Groningen, whose match against Ajax was abandoned after fireworks and smoke bombs were thrown on to the pitch by home supporters protesting against the board of the already relegated club.

It was called off in line with new guidelines brought in last month, after violence in a cup semi-final between Feyenoord and Ajax.

Pogba limps off during first start for a year

Paul Pogba's first competitive start in more than a year ended in tears after another injury forced him out of Juventus's 2-0 win over Cremonese.

Pogba, 30, was substituted 23 minutes into yesterday's match and left the field with his jersey covering his face. He had pulled up in agony after putting in a routine cross before sinking to the turf and getting on-pitch treatment on his left thigh.

Pogba rejoined Juve from Manchester United last summer but suffered an injury to his right knee in pre-season. He returned in February and made a series of substitute appearances, with a right thigh injury in March slowing his progress.

Lift-off for Oxford City and Kidderminster

Oxford City and Kidderminster Harriers came through their play-off finals yesterday to claim places in the National League next season.

In the National League South final, Oxford beat St Albans City 4-0 in front of their home fans.

Three hours later, two goals by Ashley Hemmings were enough for Kidderminster to secure a 2-0 victory away to Brackley Town in the National League North.

Oxford City, who in the late 1970s had Bobby Moore as their manager for a short period, and Harry Redknapp as his assistant, will play in the fifth tier of English football for the first time in their 140-year history. Kidderminster return after a seven-year absence.

IAN HAWKEY

European Football



As Pep eyes Treble, Busquets is last of team of the century to bid Barça adiós

"Enjoy these players," Pep Guardiola advised, "you'll miss them when they're gone." He was speaking a dozen years ago, surveying footballers that he led to two European Cups and three successive league titles at Barcelona. The forecast was prescient. Important trophies have come to the club since, but, with each success, there is local longing for the magic of what, by a broad consensus, is still regarded as the best club team of the 21st century.

The last man still playing in a Barcelona jersey from the established first XI of 2010-2011, when Guardiola's Barcelona gathered their most glowing endorsements as Team of the Century (ToC), will leave next month. Sergio Busquets announced the end of his 15-year senior Barcelona career just before collecting his ninth La Liga gold medal, after his lengthiest wait — 2019 to 2023 — between those golds.

Busquets, 34, departs with an expert view of the nostalgia that will be part of his legacy. He has seen it linger in the slipstream of ToC colleagues. Like several of them, he was once peerless in his position, the base of midfield. The next man there will bear impossible comparisons and sense the anxiety around the club as they feel their links, individual or cultural, to the ToC gradually loosen.

Barcelona's 27th league title, and first for four years, was secured with a 4-2 victory last night at the home of their city rivals, Espanyol. Two goals by Robert Lewandowski and one each from Alejandro Balde and Jules Koundé were enough to win La Liga with two rounds to spare.

Even amid celebrations of the title, supporters, executives and players are distracted by longing for a dream return of Lionel Messi, the footballer who most elevated Guardiola's Barcelona, and who left for Paris Saint-Germain two summers ago. The club, meanwhile, make sure to keep Gerard Piqué, 35, abreast of how the 2022-23 title festivities will be timetabled: Piqué was a part of this campaign, and before Busquets confirmed that he would move on, Piqué's had been the most recent *adiós* of the ToC cohort. It was sudden, announced in November as the player and the institution shared the pains of his diminishing value in Barça's central defence, match days spent mostly on the bench. Piqué's exit was at least compensated by a viable possibility he may one day come back in a senior executive role, perhaps even as an elected Barça president, bringing to bear his considerable experience as a sporting entrepreneur.

Part of why the best Guardiola-era team is so cherished is because so many seemed tied to the club by genealogy. Piqué's grandfather had been a club director. Busquets's father played in goal, well enough to have been on the bench when Barça won their first European Cup, in 1992, with Guardiola in midfield.

In the 2011 Champions League final, the 3-1 Wembley win over Manchester United framed as the apogee of ToC, Piqué and Busquets were among eight players involved who spent some of their formative years in the youth structures. Unused substitutes that night included three further graduates from the fêted La Masía academy, including Thiago Alcântara, now of Liverpool, and Bojan Krkic, a Barça prodigy and then a determined nomad, welcomed to places as distinct as Stoke and the San Siro for any sprinkles of excellence he might bestow.

The La Masía brand had peak cachet then. And even those who weren't fully Barça-branded used to talk like evangelists for "The Barça Way". Javier Mascherano, who filled in for the injured captain Carles Puyol (La Masía scholar; Catalan) at Wembley, used to articulate its pass-and-move virtues far more loudly and more often than the Barça Way's greatest exponent, his quieter Argentine compatriot Messi, who always prefers to express himself through deeds.

In the ToC, Mascherano had been converted from anchor midfielder, a role where Busquets had sovereignty, to central defender. He spoke of his remodelling as a liberation, not a demotion. To his right, Dani Alves was redrawing the map of what a full back should and could do: it covered all the places on the pitch you may find the contemporary John Stones as well as the full, sprinted length of a flank.

Guardiola's forecast about missing the ToC's once-in-a-generation stars prompted speculation about where these figures might end up. Nobody gambled greatly in predicting Mascherano as a future coach. This week the 38-year-old approaches a big threshold, taking charge of the host nation, Argentina, at the Under-20 World Cup. As that tournament progresses, Xavi Hernández, chief visionary in the ToC midfield, will be celebrating as the Barça coach matching Guardiola's 2008 achievement by guiding the club to a La Liga title in his first full season in charge.

Management has not been so kind to Eric Abidal, the left back at Wembley. His two-year period as Barça's director of football, until 2021, coincided with the club's sharp decline, constrictive debts and a public row with Messi. Víctor Valdés, the ToC's goalkeeper, coached within La Masía but only briefly, leaving after disagreements with the club's hierarchy.

Xavi and Busquets's midfield partner, Andrés Iniesta, still plays, for Japan's Vissel Kobe, whom he joined in 2018. Alves, 40, was still playing in 2022 — a brief return to Barça last season; the World Cup with Brazil — until he was detained in January after a sexual assault allegation. He remains in custody in Barcelona, under investigation, but denies all wrongdoing.

David Villa, scorer of the third at Wembley, retired in 2019. Pedro, who scored the first, is one of three ToC evergreens closing out this season in a major European league, with Lazio. Unlike his fellow 35-year-old Messi, whose spell at PSG ends next month, Pedro will not leave Rome to the sound of boos from home fans, as Messi heard in Paris this weekend.

Messi's perceived failing? To have revealed too openly his interest in being somewhere else. It may not turn out to be Barcelona again, but he misses the place. Barça, even as they clamber back to the top, will always miss him.



Barcelona enjoy victory at Wembley in 2011 with what many consider the best club side of the 21st century

2011 Champions League final

BARCELONA 3 MANCHESTER UNITED 1

Barcelona (4-1-2-3): V Valdés — D Alves (C Puyol 88min), J Mascherano, G Piqué, E Abidal — S Busquets — Xavi, A Iniesta — D Villa (S Keita 86), L Messi, Pedro (I Afellay 90+2).

Goals Pedro (27), Messi (54), Villa (69).

Manchester United (4-4-1-1): E van der Sar — Fabio (Nani 69), R Ferdinand, N Vidic, P Evra — A Valencia, M Carrick (P Scholes 77), R Giggs, Park Ji-sung — W Rooney — J Hernández.

Goal Rooney (34).

Referee V Kassai (Hun)

Venue Wembley Stadium

Attendance 87,695

FUNNY OLD GAME

Comedian George Lewis reflects on the week's action



Last week we had the peak of one of the most extreme cases of Eurovision fever we have ever known in this country. Symptoms included wandering around the house singing the same incorrect line of a pop song so often your partner threatened to make you live in the garden.

Even if you didn't suffer yourself, you probably saw the worrying images on social media of grown men in blond wigs claiming they were representing Sweden. But Sir Chris Whitty and Sir Patrick Vallance can relax, because it has cleared up almost entirely in the past 24 hours.

Someone who seemed immune was Pep Guardiola. Or maybe he was just suffering from a more severe condition: the need to complain about his team's fixture schedule. He comes down with it this time every year and he was annoyed that Manchester City had to play Everton three days before their Champions League semi-final second leg against Real Madrid. "In the end we can't play Saturday because of Eurovision or something like that in Liverpool." Oh, come on, Pep. Don't pretend you don't know about Eurovision.

Usually Jürgen Klopp is a fellow sufferer, but he is fine this year because Liverpool are out of almost every competition. All you need to cure you from fixture agitation is rest and a decent dose of underachievement.

But if you're worried about Pep taking a turn for the worse, don't. When you study his symptoms more closely, you realise that what appears to be frustration isn't that at all. My diagnosis is that it's the ultimate humble brag. He's not annoyed, he just wants the rest of us to know how successful City are.

It's like Michael Phelps complaining of neck problems from carrying so many gold medals, or the bizarre analogy used by Alan Pace, the Burnley chairman, recently.

Pace described having Vincent Kompany as his team's manager as "like dating the most beautiful girl in town and knowing there's probably no chance she's ever going to marry you . . . How long can you be a couple? I hope it's for a very, very long time. But again, that's kind of up to her."

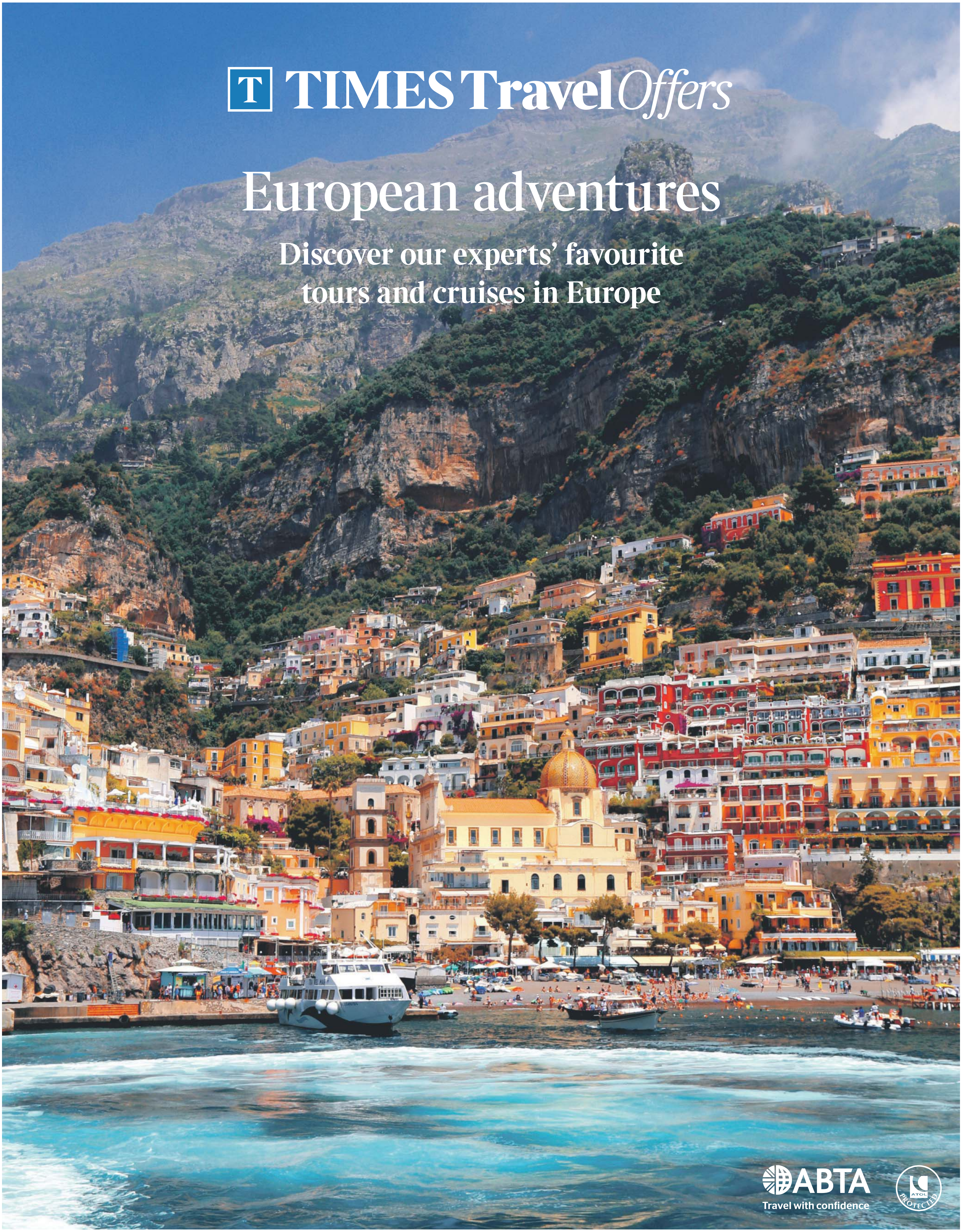
But while Kompany has been blushing and City have been letting us all know how well things are going for them, spare a thought for those who had a terrible weekend: Southampton, who were relegated, Mae Muller, who came second last in Eurovision, and of course the people of our host city, Liverpool.

After every good party comes the hangover and Liverpool fans woke up yesterday with smudged make-up and wonky fake eyelashes, then remembered Manchester United had edged closer to clinching the last Champions League spot. They chucked their feather headdresses in the cupboard, curled up on the sofa and thought about the days when Klopp used to complain about too many fixtures. Then, they probably threw up.

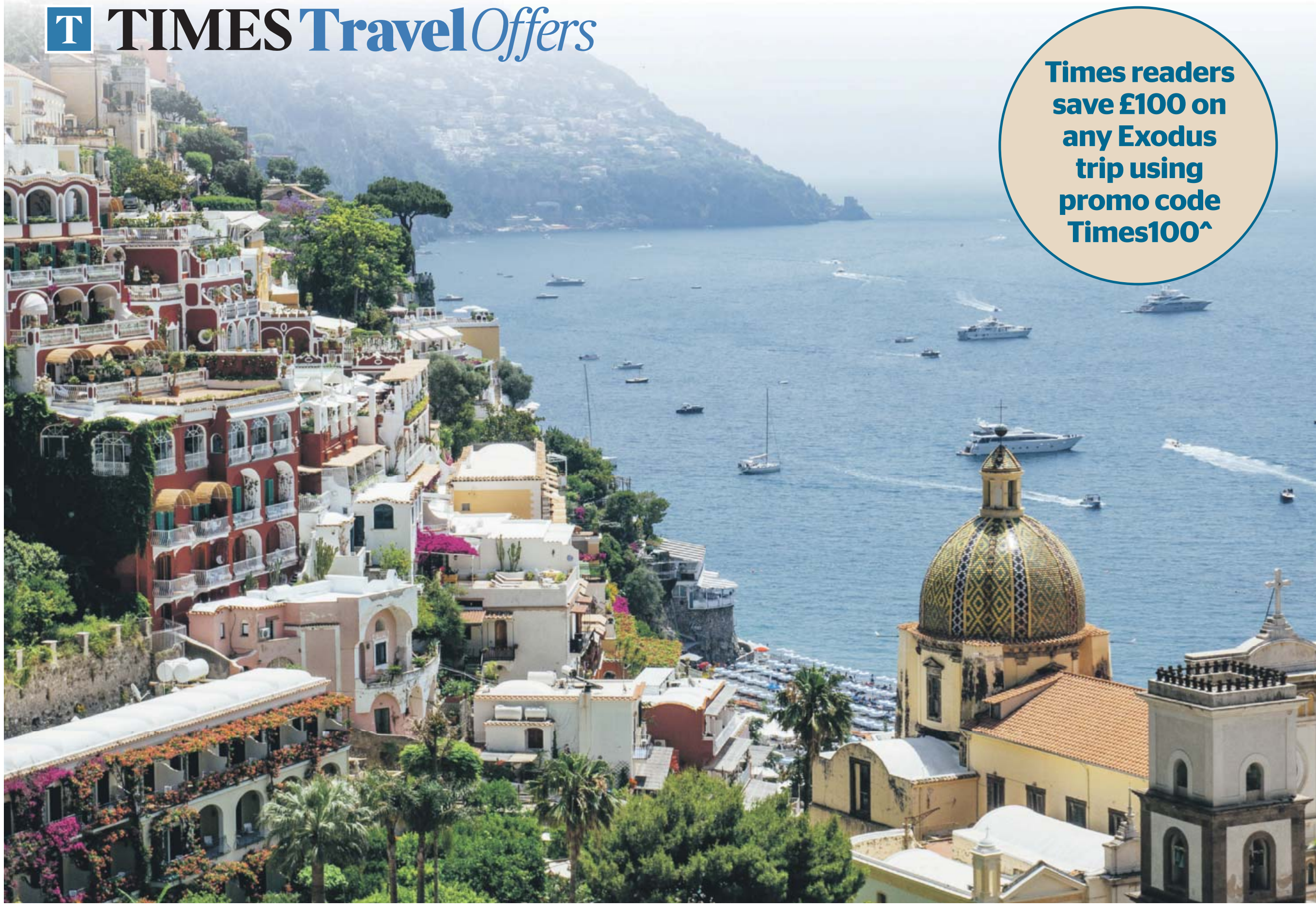
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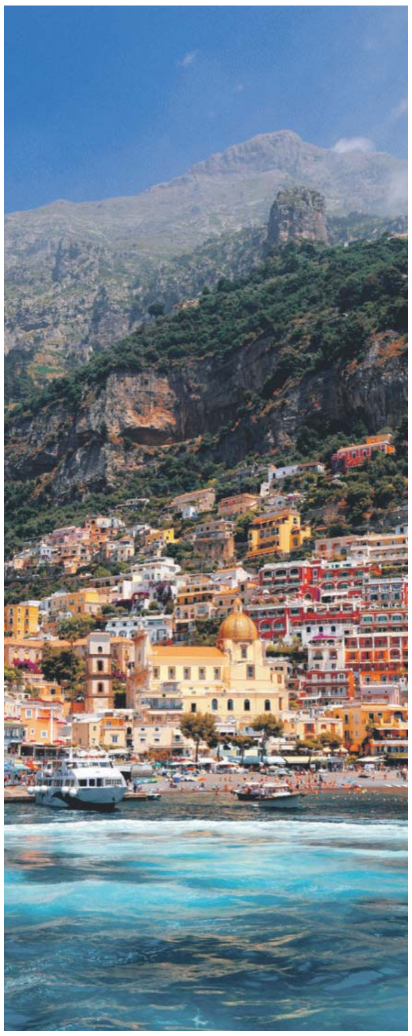
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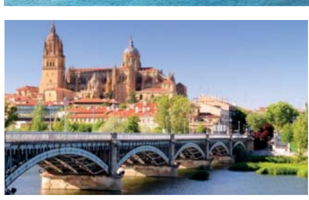
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TIMES2
May 15 | 2023



His name's Habsburg

He's a racing driver

He's the great-grandson of the last Austro-Hungarian emperor

Meet one of Europe's most eligible bachelors

Think Kate's recital went too far? Just wait for the Windsors' TikTok dance

Kevin Maher



Ever thrown a knockout house party and had friends help with the clean-up the next day? At a certain point the exhaustion strikes and you start to think, "Right. I've had enough of this. I really need them to leave"? Well, it's beginning to feel like that in the post-coronation media sphere.

Observe, for instance, the Princess of Wales, who "surprised the nation" at the start of the Eurovision Song Contest final by elegantly tinkling through a couple of seconds of a Ukrainian rap song that was notable for featuring a squad of drummers in bucket hats and two band members who appeared to have fought their way out of a paper shredder. Kate was there to show solidarity for Ukraine — and to let the world know that in the seven short days that have passed since the coronation the top royals are still very much camera ready.



Her Eurovision appearance followed an "official video" released from Kensington Palace that gave YouTube viewers a glimpse into the reality of coronation weekend from a royal perspective. This, it transpired, was basically the same as everyone else's weekend, but with more slow-mo. Although I did like the shot of William and Kate rushing to leave Kensington Palace in the morning — the audio is muted but I could swear William is saying, "Did you lock the back door?"

It's not just Kate and William. King Charles and Queen Camilla took part in the Eurovision circus too, with a fantastically awkward prerecorded skit where they pretended to be signing off on the Liverpool Arena's readiness to hold an evening of truly apocalyptic awfulness, aka, according to fans, the greatest night of the year.

I blame the so-called coronation bump. No, that's not a euphemism to describe naughty royals doing class As just to get them through the ceremony (Harry, as he revealed in *Spare*, has put all that behind him). It's the feelgood rush of monarchical approval that's apparently engendered by global media attention, a sense of ritual neatly accomplished, and a bonus boozy bank holiday weekend. Which is fine with me, and indeed some of the most furious antiroyalists I know could be heard muttering, after that Red Arrows flypast, "Of course it's morally reprehensible, but we do it better than any country on earth!"

And, yes, it's our fault too. We courted them. We lapped up the coverage. We created the monster. But now it's getting scary.

Take Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh, for instance. She played a blinder at the coronation concert, where she danced in the stands to Lionel Richie's *All Night Long* and won over social media users for being "relatable". But at the weekend's Royal Windsor Horse Show, one rhapsodic media report cooed that she had "pulled off an impressive balancing act" simply by crossing a shallow stream via stepping stones — all on her own.

What? An impressive balancing act would have been walking on random boulders, on floating logs or across the backs of a line-up of living crocodiles. We have hit, in other words, the national media's RSP, or royal saturation point.

Just don't tell William, who, according to a "source close to the prince" is already contemplating his own coronation, and considering something more "modern" and "relevant". I picture live streaming from Kensington Palace, a random procession of e-scooters and a TikTok dance down to Westminster Abbey.

The irony, ultimately, is that the biggest royal story of the week is about Prince Andrew and how he's refusing, allegedly, to leave his £30 million home on the Windsor estate, which he can't afford to maintain, how the Epstein scandal is still relevant in his life, and how he's preparing for an explosive face-off with Charles. Which is interesting, of course. But it's not very, well, coronation bump.

Shark fun with Tom Cruise

Having spent decades witnessing the unfettered egotism of Hollywood stars, I'm always heartened when someone finally speaks truth to the Tinseltown power. Simon Pegg, for instance, recently revealed that he often "makes fun" of his *Mission Impossible* co-star Tom Cruise. Good on him! It's about time that Cruise was taken down a, yep, Pegg or two.

And how exactly does this level of ridicule work? Well, apparently, while filming in South Africa Cruise brought his co-stars, including Pegg, on a fun-fuelled day trip, during which they got to fly in the megastar's helicopter and enjoyed a "bespoke" underwater experience of swimming with sharks. At the end of it all Pegg, clearly couldn't hold back anymore and so he turned to Cruise and said, "That was a real Tom Cruise kind of a day!"

I know. Harsh, right? And hilarious! So Pegg basically makes fun of Cruise in the same way that Renfield makes fun of Dracula? But without saying "master" out loud? That's what I love about Hollywood friendships. So authentic.

A big hit for Holly and Phil

It's tragic to read that the *This Morning* presenters and former BFFs Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield have allegedly had "crisis talks" with ITV bosses following reports that their friendship had broken down. One insider apparently revealed that, for Willoughby, "it's too late. Holly just wants Phil gone." It made me think of *Pulp Fiction*, when Vincent Vega (John Travolta) explains to his buddy Jules Winnfield (Samuel L Jackson) that he has been charged with "taking care" of Mia Wallace (Uma Thurman). Jules immediately puts his finger to his own head, like it's a handgun, and qualifies, "Take care of her?"

Same with Holly and Phil. Does she mean, in mobster speak, that she just wants him "gone"? Is Schofield, in short, about to be whacked?



I backed Brexit but we're back to declinism and I might move to Italy

Rocco Forte is disillusioned by what he sees as a failure to take advantage of leaving the EU. If Labour win he may be off, he tells Julia Llewellyn Smith

They don't come much more establishment than Sir Rocco Forte. The 78-year-old hotelier may have a foreign name (courtesy of his Italian immigrant parents), an impressive tan and a fraying string bracelet on his wrist — a gift he was given at his granddaughter's christening ("Her father's Greek, it makes me look cool"). But his immaculate suit, polished brogues, public-school vowels, homes in Chelsea and Surrey and love of shooting and golfing all make him come across as a classic English gentleman.

He has always been a Tory and — more recently — a vocal Brexiteer, donating £100,000 to the Conservative Party before the most recent election and throwing a £12,000 victory party for Boris Johnson when he was appointed leader at his Mayfair hotel Brown's, where he's sitting in the gorgeous £5,850 a night Sir Paul Smith suite. "Actually, it wasn't for Boris, it was quite a modest party for the people who work at Conservative Central Office. Boris made an appearance, but then he went on to a much more glamorous party: Lebedev's" — Evgeny Lebedev, the Russian owner of the Evening Standard.

Four years on, however, Forte has turned rebel. A lockdown sceptic, he has become increasingly disillusioned with the Conservatives and is "depressed" by the state of the UK "and the direction in which it's going". He doesn't know how he'll vote at the next election. "We're in a throwback to the 1970s, which I remember very well," he laments. "We're back to declinism and saying, 'There's nothing much we can do.'"

If Labour win, which he thinks is likely, he may be upping sticks. "Leaving the country is always a big step, but I am of Italian origin, I speak Italian, a large part of my business is in Italy and if I was in Italy I'd be able to expand quicker than I could sitting here, so it might be something to do anyway from a business point of view.

"This isn't a 'hell to the lot of them' thing," he continues. "It's frustration with [the government's] nonsensical approach. We haven't actually had a clear strategy for this country for a long time. We need some encouragement. If you want people to come here, you've got to tell them there's a future, not tell them it's going to be hard grind for the next 50 years."

So exasperated is the boss of Rocco Forte Hotels, which has two five-star hotels in the UK and nine in Europe, that last month he launched a campaign to reintroduce tax-free

> We haven't had a clear strategy for this country for a long time

shopping for tourists. Under the scheme they can reclaim VAT on purchases, which used to be possible under the EU Retail Export Scheme, but came to an end as part of Brexit. "But of course everyone expected the government to maintain it for sound economic reasons," Forte says.

Instead Johnson's government

CHRIS McANDREW FOR THE TIMES; CAMERA PRESS





Rocco Forte with his wife, Aliai, and their children Lydia and Charles

abolished it in 2021. Liz Truss reinstated it during her short reign, but when Rishi Sunak took over it went again. Forte organised a letter to Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, demanding he scrap the tax, citing a study by Oxford Economics that suggested that by 2025 more than 1.6 million extra visitors could be attracted annually with this perk.

So far he has persuaded 150 British businesses to sign, including many that usually take an apolitical stance — Marks & Spencer, British Airways, Victoria Beckham, Bicester Village, Selfridges and the Royal Opera House. The letter describes the retention of the tax as "puzzling" and "ill-timed". At an event for business leaders a fortnight ago, Sunak stood looking embarrassed as Burberry's boss attacked him for the "perverse" policy that had made the UK "the least attractive shopping destination in Europe".

Abolishing tax-free shopping "is just one small example of shooting ourselves in the foot", Forte says. "It's typical of the overall Treasury thinking, which is very short-term; you don't look to more than the end of the nose. We've got this massive debt that has come out of Covid and they started talking about [reducing it] over a five-year period. The Germans repaid their Second World War debt two years ago; I think we paid ours eight years ago. So there's no rush to do it.

"The excuse is to tame inflation, but monetary policy tames inflation. The Bank of England finally woke up and started raising interest rates too late. Food and energy prices are already dropping. So [the Treasury approach] is completely unnecessary and it's damaging the long-term future of the economy. We have a Conservative government, which is supposed to be about free enterprise and helping businesses. Businesses create wealth, they effectively drive the economy and create the taxes raised. We seem to have moved into a syndrome in this country where that's no longer the case. Governments do everything."

Forte is no fan of Hunt. "But this has been going on for 15 years since the last years of Gordon Brown; he set the arbitrary fiscal rules that are now being followed and it has delivered pretty anaemic growth."

He was "excited" by the arrival of Truss. "But she didn't go about things the right way. She rushed into it to show she meant business and the whole establishment was against her. Now everything's blamed on her; they say she destroyed the economy. But nothing's different to when she arrived on the scene. She should have waited two months and shown the arithmetic behind what she wanted to do."

Truss's plans included abolishing the 45 per cent higher rate of income tax and stopping the planned 6 per cent rise in corporation tax (both of which went ahead when Sunak replaced her).

"So now we have a government which is completely against enterprise in any form. You don't encourage inward investment by raising corporation tax or encourage people to work by freezing the thresholds so they're paying a higher tax. Rishi's frozen them for the next six years, so that takes us past the next election. You don't reduce the threshold to the [additional] rate of tax, which was £150,000 before; the Conservatives reduced it to £125,000. As if people earning £125,000 are rich!"

Some would quibble with that statement, but Forte, who appeared in The Sunday Times Rich List in 2020 with a fortune of £345 million, cannot see the problem. "People say to me, 'Oh, it's all very well for you [to say these things],' but the rich can look after themselves. I'm not that rich …

> **I'm still not convinced this government is sold on Brexit**

but the rich can bugger off [out of the country]. People earning between £50,000 and £100,000 a year are paying 40 per cent tax and yet they are drawing benefits." What kind of benefits? "Child benefits. It's the middle classes who get it in the back all the time and they're supposed to be the Conservative voter base. What have you got to look forward to?"

A keen sportsman who represented Britain in four World Triathlon competitions, Forte hoped Brexit would make the country more competitive. Does he acknowledge the irony of tax-free shopping being axed as an EU scheme? He ignores this. What benefits has Brexit delivered?

"We've joined the Trans-Pacific partnership, which will eventually bear a lot of fruit because that part of the world is growing fast… There's a whole Remainer contingency [saying], 'Oh, we must get back into the European Union,' as if the European Union was a great example of thriving economies. It's completely the opposite. Europe is in decline. Italy, for example, has had no new growth since it joined the euro. Germany now has had two years and two months of negative growth, which is a technical recession."

His reason for voting Leave was "mostly sovereignty. And also working in Europe I see the EU closer at hand. I didn't want more of it to come here. What I expected is that the [government would] get busy immediately, with ditching all the regulations, with tax, looking at ways of starting the economy."

He was a Johnson supporter because "he had a huge personality and… was the person who could get Brexit done". Yet Covid distracted Johnson. "If one has to be critical he didn't get on with Brexit immediately — the whole point of it wasn't leaving, it was taking advantage of things you couldn't do in the EU."

So does he have Bregrets? "No! Thank God we're out. Just annoyed we haven't got busy faster. I'm still not convinced this government is really sold on Brexit. Rishi said he voted for it, but he never campaigned for it or said anything in favour of it. Hunt is a complete Europhile. You wonder whether there is not an inclination to stay as aligned as possible with Europe so when Labour comes in we can jump back in."

Forte's opinions were virtually unique in the hospitality industry, where many have blamed Brexit for the staffing crisis, with vacancies running at 11 per cent compared with 4 per cent in other sectors, costing the industry £22 billion a year. There was much schadenfreude when he complained two years ago about recruitment problems in his London and Edinburgh hotels (in my brief time at Brown's I don't hear a single British accent among the staff).

"You know the country where I operate where [staffing] was worst of all? Germany. It was Covid. It's settled here, actually. We had shortages after Covid, and we restricted occupancy so we could give a proper service. Many hotel companies didn't bother with that. We've put our wages up considerably since we restarted, which helped. We introduced a service charge on rooms, which we distribute to the staff, so we're paying chamber maids around £35,000 a year."

This isn't just about pay, however. Forte believes the main recruitment problem — and by extension, the reason for British decline — is that "people don't want to work. They're working from home; our bank Lloyds announced the other day they're insisting people spend two days in the office. The civil service can't get people back to work."

But employees are still working when they are at home. Forte looks sceptical. "If you're a civil servant you need the stimulus of working from an office. We had Tom Scholar [the permanent secretary] at the Treasury working from Argentina for a long time."

In The Mail on Sunday yesterday Forte criticised Labour Party plans to make working from home a legal right. Together with its initiative to "ban bosses from contacting employees during their evenings, weekends and holidays", he said, it amounted "to a skivers' charter".

Forte took over Trusthouse Forte — which owned Travelodge and Little Chef — from his father, Sir Charles Forte, in 1992. Three years later it was subject to a hostile £3.9 billion takeover bid from Granada. Forte and his sister Olga Polizzi took £350 million and he went on to build his boutique collection, which, post-Covid, has just had a record year. He is rapidly expanding with openings planned for Milan, Sardinia, Rome and Naples, as well as another four undisclosed locations. There's no indication of Forte, who is remarkably hale (the only sign of being a septuagenarian is his hearing aid), passing on the business to his three children, all of whom work for him but none of whom is on the board.

"I once said to Prince Philip when he must have been 83, 'Are you still driving?' He said, 'I live in the land of the still … still doing this, still doing that.' Amazing for your age. So now I'm using that expression. I married late, my children are still quite young. We'll see how long I can keep going."

After all, there's a government to whip into shape.

Meet the fresh prince and schnell heir to the Habsburg dynasty

History denied him an archduchy, but Ferdinand Habsburg is motor racing royalty. His family don't need their empire back, he tells Oliver Moody

Some of Ferdinand Habsburg's forebears ruled an empire that stretched from Flanders to Mozambique and California to Borneo. Another kept in his imperial cabinet of curiosities the stuffed and mummified corpse of a west African-born courtier, festooned with ostrich feathers and glass beads. A third is said, perhaps apocryphally, to have had himself laid in a coffin at a lavish dress rehearsal for his funeral, only to catch a fever and die a few hours later.

Somewhere out in the multiverse of historical what-ifs there is a world in which Ferdinand Zvonimir Maria Balthus Keith Michael Otto Antal Bahnam Leonhard von Habsburg-Lothringen, 25, the heir to the Habsburg line, would be preparing to follow in their footsteps and ascend to the Austrian throne.

In this one, however, he is a world champion endurance racing driver. Instead of pursuing strategic marriage alliances or divvying up Poland with the Prussians, he zooms around Le Mans or Monza for hours at a stretch, in a supercar that's powered by wine.

"We haven't been using any fossil fuels in our car for two years now," Habsburg says. "We've been testing a synthetic fuel that is produced out of the waste from the wine industry. So I drink a lot of wine now to try and make sure that I can still go racing."

Speaking from a handsome flat in Vienna, initially over Zoom and then over the phone after the internet connection goes awry, Habsburg exudes what in a bygone century would have been called breeding. He is composed, thoughtful and occasionally quite funny, as though a committee of upwardly mobile mothers had got together to design an ideal son-in-law (he politely declines to say whether he is single).

Deposed royal houses are fascinating beasts. I've met a few of Habsburg's peers in the past. I was at school with a boy who, in another life, would have been the crown prince of Egypt, but instead channelled his energies into bodybuilding. He had a personal fridge full of chicken breasts. Once I spent an afternoon wandering around a freezing fairytale castle in southwest Germany with the heir to the kaisers as he explained his campaign for the restitution of his family's old royal estates, which were confiscated by the communist regime in the east after 1945.



The big difference with the Habsburgs is the bittersweet nostalgia with which many people have looked back on their reign since it came to an end. In November 1918, as their empire disintegrated, Charles I, the last Habsburg emperor and Ferdinand's great-grandfather, was forced to give up the throne on the day of the armistice. A few months later the family was banished from Austria by law.

Unlike in Germany, where monarchism is very much a fringe sentiment and there was never any serious prospect of a restoration, plenty of people in the Habsburgs' former territories think of them fondly. In 2011 a poll found that 17 per cent of Austrians wanted the monarchy back. Hungary, another old Habsburg territory, has two members of the family on its roster of ambassadors.

"Austria is an extremely privileged country," Habsburg says. "There's no way to disagree that this comes from a long-term [Habsburg] leadership that set great foundations in culture, in arts, in faith, in education [that laid

Ferdinand Habsburg with his mother, Baroness Francesca von Thyssen-Bornemisza. Right: his other life as a racing driver

> **The Habsburg family tried to create as much peace as possible. But it did go wrong quite often**

extremely good cornerstones in this country to make it as uncorrupted as possible, to make it safe and glorious. And people love to think the grass was always greener, you know?

"Do people have a nostalgia for it? Of course they do. It's everywhere you look around here. All the buildings are based on the architecture of my family that they put there. But for me personally, I get to enjoy all the things my family put in place here, and on top of that live the free life of a civilian."

In Austria a minor political party known as the Black-Yellow Alliance after the Habsburg colours is campaigning to revive the empire — including modern-day Hungary, Croatia, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic — with Ferdinand's father, Karl, at its head. Father and son have publicly renounced any aspirations to the throne. But strangers still sometimes send Ferdinand messages addressing him as the Archduke or "Your Imperial and Royal Highness", even though it is illegal for him to use these titles under Austrian law.

He is unembarrassed by this. "I have responsibilities to people," he says. "I mean, I didn't just inherit nothing, you know. My father likes to remind me of how grateful we should be to a number of families and groups of people that were always there to try and protect us. A ruling family needs a strong *volk*, or people, and those groups still exist today … There are still people where you know that their grandfather or grandmother might have died trying to protect my family."

In 1961 the Habsburgs were eventually allowed to move back to their homeland on the condition that they renounced any claim to the crown. Their lands and titles were long gone, but they were far from being a normal family. Ferdinand's father, who briefly served as an MEP for the conservative Austrian People's Party, was once fined the equivalent of about £16,000 in today's money for allegedly trying to smuggle a tiara through a private airport.

He married Baroness Francesca von Thyssen-Bornemisza, who attended Saint Martin's School of Art and was an It girl on the London scene. One afternoon, as they wandered among his embalmed ancestors in the imperial crypt, he proposed to her with the words: "Would you like to be buried here?"

Against this backdrop, Ferdinand Habsburg appears pretty well adjusted.



He attended a private international day school in Vienna, which left him with almost impeccable English. He has a strong Catholic faith. He reads memoirs and biographies — most recently those of Matthew McConaughey and Mother Teresa — and studies the lives of his ancestors. The ones he admires the most are the formidable 18th-century empress Maria Theresa and his great-grandfather Charles I, who was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2004.

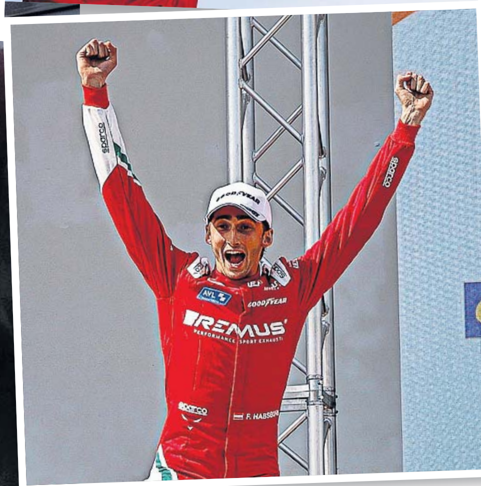
I wonder whether he feels at all uncomfortable about the darker side of his family's history. For all her reforming zeal, Maria Theresa expelled the Jews from her realm ("I know of no greater plague than this race," she once wrote). During the devastating Thirty Years' War of the early 17th century the Habsburgs' imperial forces inflicted numerous atrocities on their Protestant enemies, including the infamous 1631 sack of Magdeburg, where almost an entire German city was razed to the ground and four fifths of its population were put to the sword.

"I think the overarching message is that the Habsburg dynasty was always one that tried to create as much peace as possible. But it did go wrong quite often, absolutely," Habsburg says. "You can go into moments in time and say

COVER AND BELOW: DREW GIBSON; EUROPA PRESS/GETTY IMAGES; REX FEATURES:







that was great, or that was terrible. Do I feel like I inherited that? I don't really feel an inherited sense of [responsibility], like I don't feel like I own that land any more either, or anything my family had at that time."

Motor racing, on the other hand, is refreshingly straightforward. Habsburg has been hooked since his first ride on a go-kart at the age of eight. He later worked his way up the racing hierarchy into Formula 3, where he made friends with Michael Schumacher's son Mick, but never quite broke through into the upper echelons of the sport. It is, he says, an expensive vocation at this elite level, requiring either substantial private means or a knack for attracting deep-pocketed sponsors. "It was becoming more and more difficult to really get that kind of funding, to the point where it was, like, 'OK, I've been doing this quite a few years and I never really signed a big manufacturer contract,'" he says.

Instead he found his metier in endurance racing. His team triumphed in their category of the 2021 FIA World Endurance Championship and won two consecutive editions of the 24 Hours of Le Mans, a gruelling race in which groups of three drivers working in shifts cover 3,000 miles or more in a single day, each maintaining average speeds of about 120mph for more than two hours at a time.

"You're literally trying to maximise every inch of the track at every single moment," he says. "It gets super-dark at night. You get dehydrated; you get tired. If you lose your focus for one moment, you're kind of endangering your life and the lives of the people around you. You train all these years just to make sure that when you get in the car at 4am, after maybe only half an hour's rest, and you're already getting cramping in your glutes and thighs and lower back, you can spend the next two and a half hours 100 per cent focused and doing a good job."

On the racetrack Habsburg is just another man in a set of snazzy overalls. "Most [of the drivers] are not history professors, put it that way," he says. "They are not people that care much where you come from. They care about what kind of a guy you are… Mick [Schumacher] is famous for having a dad who's famous in motorsport, so he had a whole experience of trying to find his own identity. I have a different challenge … They all call me Ferdinand and that's all they know. They have no clue most of the time what my family did in the past. The racetrack is kind of a nice place to be, in a way, because it doesn't matter where you come from or what you do. It just matters if you're quick or not."

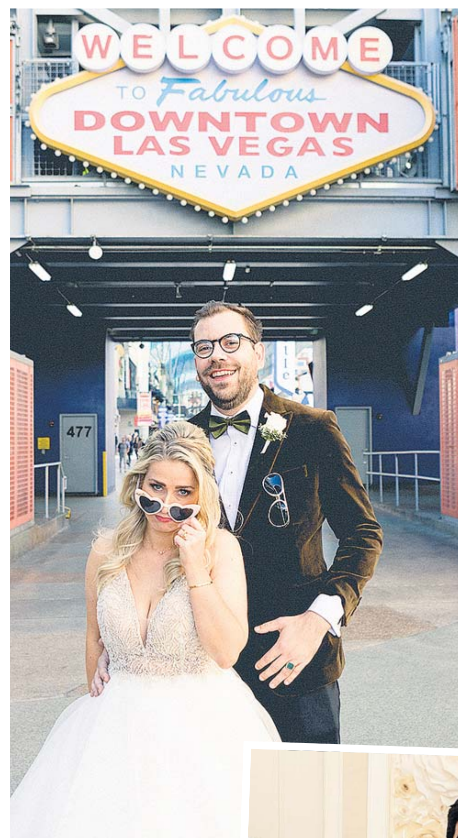
Still, I ask, does he ever wonder whether he might have been king had those years after the First World War worked out differently? "I'm 25," he says. "I'm figuring out my own identity, like every single other 25-year-old, trying to figure out work-life balance, women, my connection with God, all of these topics… If that was the case, my whole life would have been completely different. For most of my life I would have been an army officer. I wouldn't have been able to travel to all the countries I've been to, I wouldn't have met the friends that I have now. Yes, I think about it. But I wake up in the morning thinking about what I'm going to make for breakfast rather than, 'Oh, I wish the empire would come back.'"

My parents weren't invited to my wedding

Lucy Vine decided to tie the knot in Las Vegas — then she told her family that they couldn't come

This is not a story about estrangement. In fact, I'd like to make it clear up front that I love my parents, and the rest of my family, a lot. We're very close, emotionally and physically — I live within five minutes of 16 members of my immediate family, in Cambridge. So you can imagine the excitement when I got engaged, and how disappointed they all were when I said that I didn't want any of them — including my mum and dad — to be at the wedding.

I was determinedly and delightedly single for most of my twenties, and even after I met David in 2019 I said we'd never tie the knot. Getting married didn't make sense to me. My parents are divorced, and I've always been fairly unromantic, but, more than that, I didn't want a *wedding*. I love attending weddings; for me it's like going to the theatre. I'm happy to be there, but there is nothing inside me that wanted to be up there on stage.



However, one night David mentioned the idea of us having a different kind of wedding, in Las Vegas. We could fly over, meet with a dodgy-looking Elvis in a chapel and follow it up with fast food and casinos. We'd get all the fun without any arguments over table plans. We wouldn't have to have awkward conversations with friends over who would be bridesmaids or groomsmen. I wouldn't have to parade down an aisle to be "given away".

We decided the only people we would like with us would be our best friends, Sarah and Fred. We would need witnesses, and Sarah's a professional photographer — not to mention one of the most organised and calming people I know.

I told David I didn't want it to be a secret elopement. I'm the worst at keeping things to myself, and I knew doing that would be a step too far for my family. This was going to hurt them enough. I can't say that when I sat my mum down we had the easiest of conversations, but she was very understanding. I could tell she was sad, but she told me to do what would make me happy. I felt incredibly selfish.

As I left, I suggested we could have a party when we got back. I'd even wear a wedding dress. And even though she wasn't invited to Vegas, Mum offered to buy me that dress.

Most of the family were happy for us, although there were quite a few jokey threats about turning up in Nevada to surprise us, and I'm pretty sure there were conversations behind closed doors about our decision — ones I wouldn't want to have heard. Funnily enough, my dad was the most delighted of anyone. He's an introvert too, and I think he was disappointed that we hadn't eloped.

As we left for our trip in November — massive white dress packed into my carry-on luggage — my mum and sisters turned up to wave us off. Mum wiped away tears.

The whole week was as mad and joyful as we had hoped. The first night, Sarah and I went to watch *RuPaul's Drag Race Live*, while David and Freddie headed to local bars. It was almost like a hen do and a stag do, but with fewer strippers. David had asked about sleeping apart the night before our wedding and it made me laugh. Why would I not want to be with him? As we headed to our limo — through the casino — strangers shouted congratulations. At the venue Elvis arrived in a bad wig and a pink jacket. As I walked up the aisle with David, I felt only relief at the empty pews. Our vows were absurd jokes about "burning love"



Lucy Vine and her husband, David, with "Elvis" in the chapel

and not having "suspicious minds", then the impersonator sang for us as we danced around the empty room. It was the best day of my life.

Six months on, I still feel slightly guilty about my family, but many friends have confided that they wish they had done it the same way. And that's the trouble, isn't it? Weddings so often end up not being about the two people getting married, but about money, drama and family rifts instead.

***Seven Exes* by Lucy Vine is published by Simon & Schuster on May 25**

Ask Professor Tanya Byron

After decades of heartbreak my middle-aged son is isolated and sees no future for himself

Q I am very worried about my son, who is single and middle-aged. Since his teens he has had a series of broken relationships that were usually ended, acrimoniously, by the girlfriend. Each one has left him heartbroken, reducing him to tears, making him unable to work, eat or see a way forward in his life.

The latest break-up appears to include a betrayal, in his eyes, by a friend who has inveigled his way into spending more time with the female friend and cut my son out of their shared leisure activity.

My son is refusing antidepressants from the GP (he says "they never helped in the past"), and has completed the self-referral for counselling, but the waiting list is months long. He sees no future for himself. He hates his job and has just been undermined at work. He feels isolated by working from home — he lives alone — and being dropped by someone with whom he felt he was building a possible long-term relationship is the final straw.

He has no ideas about what he would like to do with his life or what changes might make him happier, and talks about being better off dead because the only peace he gets from his thoughts and emotions is when he sleeps.

If he would agree to see a psychologist or psychiatrist privately, how would we go about finding the right one?
Annie

A You are obviously concerned about your son, who seems to be struggling to move his life on in terms of relationships and work. To answer your last question first, to find private mental health care your son should search directories of accredited practitioners. In private mental health it is easy for vulnerable people to be exploited by those who offer their services but have minimal or no accredited training or fake qualifications. It is important for your son independently to check the advertised accreditation and qualifications.

To find someone in my profession he can go to bps.org.uk, where the drop-down menu will provide a list of local clinical psychologists who must be registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org/check-the-register). A psychiatrist must be a General Medical Council-registered specialist doctor. This can be verified online at professionalstandards.org.uk/check-practitioners. Counsellors and psychotherapists should be accredited by the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (bacp.co.uk).

Given what you describe, I suggest a clinical psychologist who is trained clinically and psychotherapeutically, and therefore can assess and treat his depression as well as providing therapy for related and underlying issues; and a psychiatrist who can prescribe medications that work for him, if necessary. While medications aren't the answer for everyone and generally shouldn't be the first line of treatment if talk-therapy hasn't been tried, they can really help some people in terms of stabilising and lifting mood, which is important to enable them to engage in therapy, in itself a tough and challenging process.

For your son, this would involve exploring the themes that seem to run through his life disappointments: being rejected and overlooked. It seems that his needs are never fully met and he feels taken for granted, abandoned and betrayed. You describe a pattern of relationships that end badly, a career he doesn't progress in and a friend who stepped into a relationship he was cultivating. I can understand that he will feel angry, upset and hopeless. The key issue to explore is why this seems to keep happening to him.

This is where therapy can be unexpectedly challenging, because it requires an open and honest assessment of the self. This may be your son asking the question: "What am I doing to create the opportunity for others to neglect/not see/exploit my needs?" This may feel like blame, but it is actually empowerment because while we can't change others to get a desired outcome, we can change ourselves to enable that to happen.

If I were working with your son I would want to explore a number of issues. For example, how good is he at articulating his needs? How good is he at letting others know how he feels about them? Does he feel confident in being assertive when necessary? I'd analyse his relationships with him, and look at his communication and interpersonal skills, whether there are commonalities in the types of person he has relationships with, and his expectations of a romantic partner. While empathising with the pain that a person brings into therapy, a therapist will want to analyse their experiences forensically. They offer clues to the overall difficulties that need to be addressed, especially if, as with your son, there are repeating patterns of disappointment.

A well-trained and experienced accredited therapist will work from an evidence base too. That is, well-validated therapeutic approaches that show evidence-based outcomes for specific mental health issues. A single therapeutic model may not offer the inclusive and flexible approach that your son will benefit from. I suggest a therapist who is integrative — using multiple psychological approaches tailored to meet his needs (nhs.uk/mental-health).

Using an integrative approach, your son and his therapist would create a formulation of his difficulties — a personal narrative that provides hypotheses for the origins and nature of the issues he is experiencing. These would be developed using a biopsychosocial approach, which is holistically to understand who we are in terms of how we think, feel and behave; the impact we have on others; the impact others have on us. There will be an exploration of primary relationships and early life experiences, existing relationships and social circumstances, significant life events and existing stresses, as well as family mental health history (for example, indicating possible genetic underlying predispositions).

Beliefs about the self and others would allow for an understanding of what your son brings into a relationship. The overall frame would be to see, for example, his relationships that end badly not as failures but as learning experiences, enabling him to change and so empower and enable himself to build the confidence and skills to develop a lasting and loving relationship.

If seeing a therapist face to face feels daunting, to begin with your son could explore online or digital therapy. He could look at self-help guides such as the online resource Moodjuice, nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/mental-health and the Reading Well books (on prescription and available from libraries). He could access online peer support and individual or group talking therapies through mental health charities such as Mind (mind.org.uk, 0300 1233393) and Mental Health Matters (mhm.org.uk). Relate offers counselling to anyone struggling with relationships (relate.org.uk, 0300 1001234).

My primary concern is that your son has expressed that "he would be better off dead". This indicates a severe and worsening depression. I advise that you support him to tell his GP about these thoughts and feelings; if he won't, let his GP know yourself. It would be helpful for him to know the number of the Samaritans (116 123) and also look at Calm — the Campaign Against Living Miserably — a charity dedicated to men who are depressed and questioning the value of being alive (thecalmzone.net, 0800 585858). I wish him well.

If you would like Professor Tanya Byron's help, email proftanyabyron @thetimes.co.uk

> **"How good is he at letting others know how he feels?**



Pauline Harmange had assumed that if anyone could handle an abortion, it would be her. A militant French feminist and the author of *I Hate Men*, an essay on the evils of the patriarchy that was translated into 20 languages, she thought her pro-choice beliefs would make it "very easy" for her to end her unwanted pregnancy.

They did not. "I didn't know that you had the right to take a decision easily but that it would still [cause] grief, that people in medical circles could be disagreeable and this would complicate something that I thought very simple."

She is speaking in a café in her home city of Lille in northern France before the UK publication of *Abortion*, an essay recounting her experience and the conclusions she has drawn from it.

Harmange is at pains to stress that she remains staunchly in favour of abortion rights, and is keen to avoid her work being misunderstood. Her aim, she says, is not so much to depict abortion as a life-shattering trauma but rather to nuance some of the "simplistic" accounts that circulate in feminist circles and present it as "no more difficult than having a cup of coffee".

She describes her abortion as a "serious" matter that marked her more than she had expected. It is not her "defining scar", she says, but a wound that needed "time, words and love" to heal.

Abortions were legalised in France in 1975 but remain a politically charged issue in the country. The limit on how far into pregnancy they can be performed was raised from 12 to 14 weeks last year after heated discussions, but it remains lower than in Britain and the Netherlands, where it is 24 weeks.

Tensions rose after the US Supreme Court's decision to reverse *Roe v Wade*, striking down the constitutional right to abortion in America. President Macron's centrist coalition responded by pledging to make France the first country in the world to enshrine in the constitution "the freedom of women to end their pregnancies". The idea was to make it difficult for the populist right to row back on abortion rights should it win power in France.

Harmange, 28, describes the planned constitutional modification as "necessary but really not sufficient", pointing out that, in practice, access to abortion can be complicated in some parts of France, particularly rural regions, after the closure of at least 130 clinics over the past 15 years.

> **"It was hard for me to see pregnant women, to talk about babies**

She has to raise her voice above the hissing of the espresso machine in the café, causing customers to turn their heads as they listen in to a conversation that is probably not standard fare for the centre of Lille.

Harmange seems unconcerned, chatting to me in an affable manner

She wrote about hating men, now she has tackled her abortion. It was tough



Pauline Harmange is the French feminist whose debut book caused outrage. She tells Adam Sage why she has opened up about the ordeal of ending her pregnancy

that may seem unexpected to readers of *I Hate Men*, where she argued that misandry was a reasonable response to the prejudices of male-dominated societies and a cause that could unite women. "Hating men as a social group, or even often as individuals, brings me a lot of joy," she wrote.

She says the book continues to generate reactions on social media — mostly positive ones from women, less so from men. A woman nearby swivels with an expression of interest as Harmange explains: "The problem is not that an individual with male gametes is evil, it is that many men find it easier to profit from the patriarchy than to change things that don't work."

There are exceptions to the rule, she says — her husband being one of them. She met Mathieu when she was 16 and described him in *I Hate Men* as a notch up on the average member of his sex to the extent that "he does not rape me or hit me, he does the washing up and the hoovering and treats me with the respect I deserve".

She says she always wanted children, but only when she and her husband were in a stable financial situation. In 2018, when she fell pregnant despite her IUD, they were living in a "shoebox" with no guaranteed revenue, she says.

"I told myself: I can't force a child to be born into a minuscule, poorly heated apartment, with no financial stability and no future prospects," she writes in *Abortion*.

With her husband on the same wavelength, she had no doubts about ending the pregnancy and says she has no regrets now either. "I don't feel selfish for refusing to drop a tiny human being into this furious world without being able to offer it something better," she writes.

The abortion itself — a medical procedure that was done ten days after her pregnancy test — was, she says, relatively easy: one pill early in the morning, a second several hours later, a "violent" stomach cramp and three weeks of bleeding.

What followed was less easy. "I was surrounded by people who supported me … feminist friends who understand that falling pregnant may not be a source of happiness," she says. "But from the moment I aborted, as far as they were concerned, it was all over. The friends did not understand why I was still sad and why I was taking so much time to get over it."

Deep down, she needed someone to ask how she was feeling and to offer her help. "Then maybe I would have cried sooner than I did, and no doubt I would have said that I felt sick to my stomach, that I was now terrified to let my partner penetrate me, and that I was afraid I'd destroyed the part of myself that had dreamt of being a mother someday," she writes.

She never imagined having to face any of this. She thought abortion was an issue for feminist debates, not something she would "have to personally confront". When that turned out to be wrong, she assumed that with her "militant" experience she would be able to cope.

In fact, "it was difficult for me to see pregnant women, difficult to talk about babies". She describes telling her mother that she had aborted as a "confession", and says that at the time she felt ashamed of herself.

"I really felt … that I'd messed something up, that I hadn't been careful enough," she says.

With hindsight, she says, she realised that the sense of "shame" was foisted upon her by a society that has approved abortions in law but does not want to talk about them. "You can't phone up your employer and say: 'I'm not coming to work today because I'm having an abortion'," she says.

Harmange realised that she fell pregnant not because she had been imprudent, but because she was among the 1 per cent or so of women for whom IUD contraceptives do not work. Researching her book, she discovered that 72 per cent of the women who abort in France are in a similar situation — becoming pregnant despite using contraception, which includes those who forget to take the pill.

"Listening to people you get the impression that abortion is just for shameless girls who are not careful … but in fact it's for women who try to pay attention and for whom it does not work."

She says she wrote the book because, looking on the internet for first-hand accounts of abortion, she found nothing that corresponded to her experience.

> **I needed time to heal so that it did not become a traumatism**

"I had the impression that I either came across tales put together by anti-abortion groups saying abortion was a tragedy that had destroyed women and destroyed their families, or the opposite, accounts by militants saying you can abort and it's not a problem. I was not in either category because, even if I did not regret my choice, it took me time to get over it because it was not what I would have wanted in better circumstances."

In an interview with Elle magazine two years ago Macron said he understood "the traumatism that it is to abort". Harmange disagrees with the notion of traumatism. "If you say that it is a traumatism, you are saying that it needs to be restricted as much as possible so as not to traumatise women.

"For me it was a serious moment, and what I needed was to be given time to heal so that it did not become a traumatism."

In *Abortion* she recounts a scene where her husband said to her: "Maybe it will never really be healed for us until we have that child we wanted, that we could have now."

Their material situation has improved since, and they are no longer living in poverty. The success of *I Hate Men* has helped Harmange to make a living as a writer, and she has just brought out *Le Renard* (The Fox), her latest novel, in France.

Her husband has a stable job and they have moved to a bigger flat. Their daughter was born eight months ago. Harmange says that her "anger and rage have cooled now that I'm no longer poor and afraid that my meagre comforts in life will be swept away". It certainly seems that way.

She is even prepared to challenge the idea held in some feminist circles that men should have no say in abortion — on a personal level if their partners become pregnant or in the political debate.

Harmange concedes that had her husband not backed her choice, she might never have aborted. She writes: "Perhaps it's not yet the moment to include men in this conversation, but do we really want to exclude them for ever?"

Pauline Harmange. Below: her husband, Mathieu



first night

pop

The Great Escape

Various venues, Brighton
★★★★☆

Endless queues, all-day drinking, overly animated conversations at the bar at 2am … It was that time of year when the music industry descends on Brighton to discover the next big thing in pubs, nightclubs and beachside stages throughout the city. The biggest buzz was around the Last Dinner Party's Thursday-night set at Chalk. They have released only one single, a fantastically theatrical piece of hook-laden soft rock with touches of Abba, Florence + the Machine and 1980s belters like Hazel O'Connor and Bonnie Tyler called *Nothing Matters*. Yet a backlash has already begun, with accusations of hype and money being thrown at a female five-piece who are just out of the starting gate.

The band members had expensive in-ear monitors, which don't normally come until the big concert halls, but the live-wire singer Abigail Morris is a star in waiting and the musicianship held arena-sized ambitions. Here was the real reason for the hype — the Last Dinner Party were good.

Elsewhere, more low-key sets proved just as illuminating. MF Tomlinson has a background in Australian teenage pop punk bands, but on moving to London he discovered the jazz folk of Pentangle and the bleakness of British winters, leading to *Winter Time Blues*, on which he sang of how the cold was "doing my f***ing head in" against soaring flute and saxophone accompaniment. It was funny, musically rich and tinged with sadness.

Then there was Blondshell, aka the 25-year-old New Yorker Sabrina Teitelbaum, who put angsty songs about bad boyfriends into an early 1990s alternative rock setting reminiscent of Liz Phair and Hole, which made the Generation Xers in the basement of the Komedia happy.

Also playing around with nostalgia, of an Eighties dance-pop kind, was Jessica Winter, who with her oversized glasses, slinky moves and high-pitched purr came across like a sexier, more fashionable version of Deirdre Barlow from *Coronation Street*.

There were big names at the Great Escape — the emotional pop-rock of the Pretenders, the ominous drill of the British rapper Unknown T — but the thrill, as ever, was finding a great new act in a little dive, hyped or not.

Will Hodgkinson

ANDREJ USPENSKI



UniVerse: A Dark Crystal Odyssey features expressive choreography and immersive digital technology

A cult film is reborn

Wayne McGregor's abstract take on Jim Henson's 1980s movie is hypnotic, says Debra Craine

dance

UniVerse: A Dark Crystal Odyssey

Linbury, Royal Opera House
★★★★☆

If you don't know Jim Henson's 1982 cult film *The Dark Crystal* it doesn't matter. And if you do know the film it doesn't matter either. Because Wayne McGregor, in his new 80-minute production *UniVerse: A Dark Crystal Odyssey*, has taken the idea of the film and abstracted it to create something entirely its own in dance — a mournful and affecting portrait of a fractured world in desperate need of healing.

It's our world in 2023, and the broken crystal that has divided and damaged us is the climate crisis. That's made clear from the start as images of a dying natural world abound (the ecological message is enhanced by voiceover from the spoken word artist Isaiah Hull).

The film designer Ravi Deepres conjures up a magical Linbury stage where immersive digital technology places us underwater swimming with fish, or gazing up into a forest, or floating in outer space (Lucy Carter's lighting is pure genius). Through costumes and head pieces, Alex Box and Philip Delamore bring us the fantastical doomed creatures that inhabit this landscape. And hovering overhead is the eyeball in heaven that sees all.

UniVerse is a shadow of the film, not a version of it. McGregor doesn't follow its clear plot: there are no named characters in his dance, no single embodiment of evil — the "darkening that threatens us", as the dramaturg Uzma Hameed describes it, is just out there — and no single hero (or heroine) who will save the planet.

The dancers — members of Company Wayne McGregor — represent the dangerous polarisation of society in hyperactive, attacking moves. The search for peace and salvation is revealed primarily in the symbiotic and very balletic pas de deux.

Throughout McGregor's choreography has a hypnotic flow and an expressive heft with restless limbs yearning to speak. In this he's matched by Joel Cadbury's enveloping electronic score, which immerses us in the sound of powerful feelings: alarm, sorrow, hope.

You may wonder at the strange, sometimes robotic, beings who share McGregor's colourful universe with the more recognisable humans.

However, the ending, simple yet stirring, brings us back down to earth as we know it, with the prospect of rebirth and renewal placed firmly in our hands.

To June 4, roh.org.uk

classical

Chineke!/ Selaocoe/ Keita

Royal Festival Hall
★★★☆☆

It's commendable and understandable that Chineke!, a predominantly minority-ethnic orchestra, should want to play a whole concert of music by African and African-heritage composers. But Friday's programme was a weird mixture. Each half began, like a warm-up, with string music written in Britain about a century ago, and sounding mostly as though it could have been composed by Vaughan Williams or Percy Grainger.

In fact the pieces — joyous, melodic and finely crafted — were by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and the much less known Fela Sowande (born in Nigeria but a lively all-round musician in 1930s London) and well worth hearing, though I wish Chineke! had polished them a bit more. There were too many raw-tuned or imprecise moments under Kazem Abdullah's direction.

But then, exhilaration. The South African cellist/composer Abel Selaocoe has become an inspirational figure in the UK, spanning many genres. Here he crossed another divide, collaborating with the Senegalese kora virtuoso Seckou Keita in a series of sung and played pieces, irresistibly exuberant and beguilingly lyrical, where it was often impossible to tell where one man's creative impulse ended and the other's started, or what was improvisatory and what composed, or even (when we all joined in on refrains) where, or if, the boundary existed between performers and audience.

Saturday's concert by the four string players of the **Manchester Collective and Sean Shibe** (Queen Elizabeth Hall, ★★★★☆), a superb young guitarist, was a more intimate and esoteric affair of mostly exquisite new music, exquisitely played.

I write "mostly" because David Lang's *Killer*, sending an electric guitar screeching over a thumping off-kilter bass riff, before adding the subtle thud of a fortissimo bass drum, was one of the ghastliest things I've heard this year. However, I loved Emily Hall's ravishingly textured and expansively lyrical *Our Potential Space*, Kelly Moran's memorial to a dead cellist friend, *Living Room* (with a high violin descant hovering over the ensemble like a watching wraith), and David Fennessy's ultra-refined exploration of ethereal whispers, *Rosewoods*.

Richard Morrison

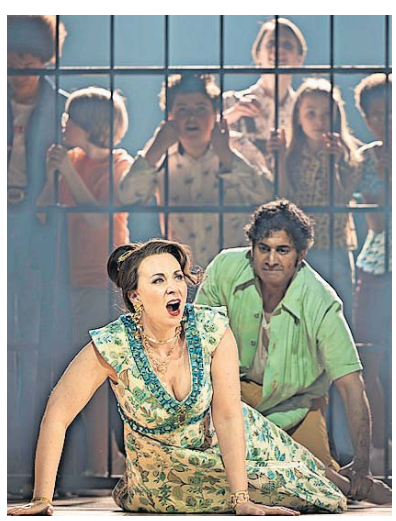
opera

Carmen

Theatre Royal, Glasgow
★★☆☆☆

Scottish Opera's previous production of *Carmen* was as dull as the Glasgow drizzle, so the company was long overdue a replacement. Unfortunately this new staging isn't much of an improvement.

John Fulljames's production begins with Don José confessing to Carmen's murder and turning himself in to the police. The opera then unfolds as a flashback from the police station where José undergoes interrogation. There's precedent for that in the novella that inspired Bizet's opera, but as realised here it hamstrings the drama. The opera's spoken dialogue is replaced by conversations between José and the police investigator, which interrupt the drama and disrupt the flow.



Justina Gringyte and Alok Kumar

The framing device distances the audience and drains from the story the passionate immediacy that makes it so compelling. That's particularly damaging for José's relationship with Micaëla, which contains not a spark of chemistry because it's seen mostly through the eyes of the investigator. The communicative gains of Christopher Cowell's English translation are undone by the awkwardness of the concept.

Ostensibly Fulljames sets his production in late-Francoist Spain, but it might as well have been the Siberian steppes for all the impact that it has on the drama. Worse, every scene takes place in a variation of the boxlike set for the police station. The visual palate is pale beige, a deadening contrast to the explosive colour of Bizet's music, and it's left to a few costumes to provide even a splash of visual variety.

There's some consolation in the singing. Justina Gringyte's dark, smoky mezzo is a good fit for Carmen's dangerous sexual chemistry, and Hye-Youn Lee sings Micaëla with attractive brightness. There's winning bluster to Phillip Rhodes's Escamillo, but Alok Kumar attacks all of José's music like a bull at a gate, which gives him very little expressive shade.

The chorus sing with energy and both the playing of the orchestra and the conducting of Dane Lam are perfectly fine; but when you're using those two words to describe *Carmen*, something has gone badly wrong.

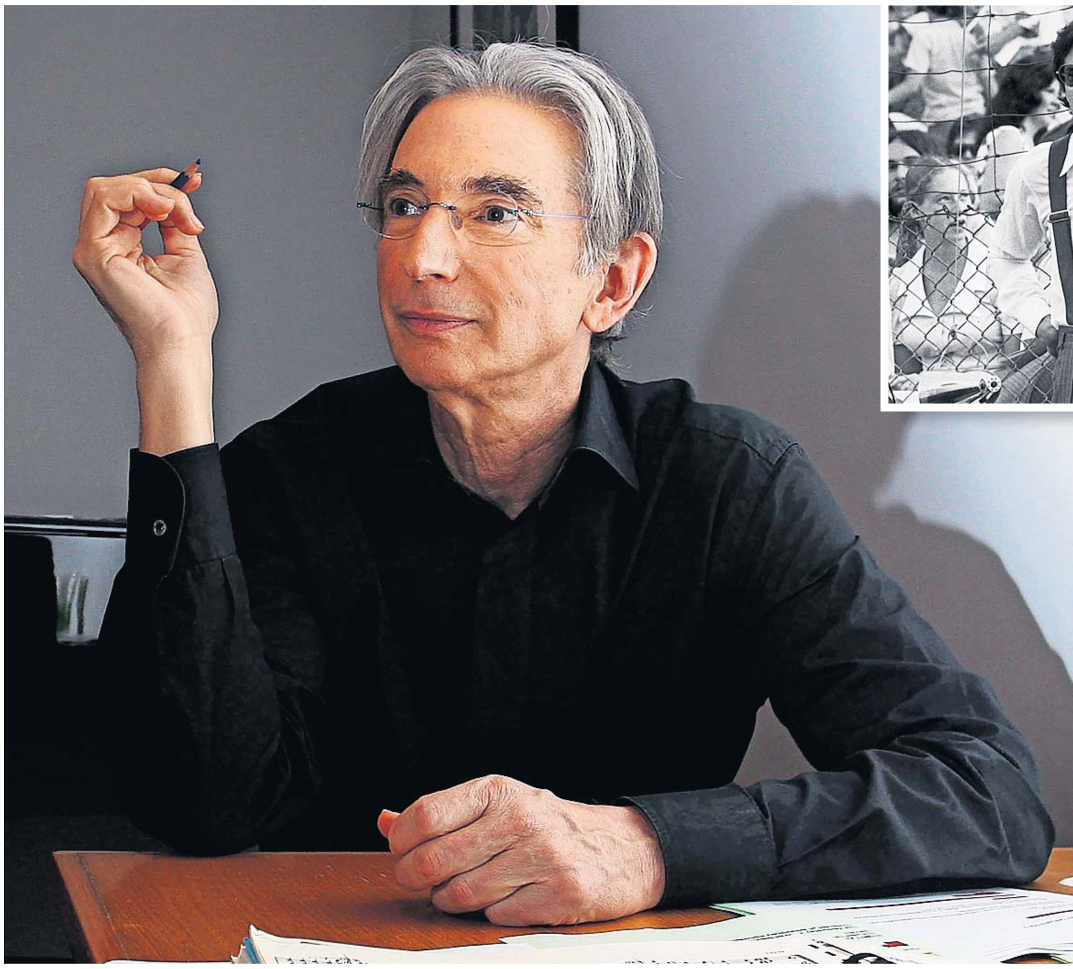
Simon Thompson

To May 20, touring to June 17, scottishopera.org.uk

Why my brain cancer won't stop me from making music

Michael Tilson Thomas talks to Richard Morrison about conducting the LSO and the future of music

LISA MAREE WILLIAMS/GETTY IMAGES





Michael Tilson Thomas. Above right: with Leonard Bernstein, his mentor, in 1974

Just over a year has passed since Michael Tilson Thomas put a statement on his website that saddened music lovers the world over. The American conductor, then 77, had clearly not been well for a while, although he had just made a colossal return by doing a string of 20 concerts across America. That, he wrote, "felt like coming back to life".

Then came the bombshell. "I have glioblastoma multiforme, a type of aggressive brain cancer," he announced. He had undergone an operation, plus radiation and chemotherapy, and the cancer was in check. "But the future is uncertain as glioblastoma is a stealthy adversary," Tilson Thomas wrote. "Its recurrence is, unfortunately, the rule rather than the exception."

No self-pity — just sombre, devastating facts. What's become clear since then, however, is that while Tilson Thomas has a breath in his body he is determined to focus on making music, training orchestras and (like his mentor, Leonard Bernstein) inspiring young performers, just as he has for the past half-century. This week, supported by Joshua Robison, his partner (now husband) for 46 years, he's coming to London for two Brahms concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra, whose principal conductor he was from 1988 to 1995.

If he has dark thoughts about mortality, he's not going to reveal them to me in a Zoom call from New York. Instead he quips about his looks ("this is the debut of my radiation hair, by the way"), his doctors ("they say to me: 'The result of this medication is that you will either feel better or worse'") and a new word, "laureate", in all his job titles.

At the LSO he is "conductor laureate". At the San Francisco Symphony, where he was music director for 25 years until 2020, championing reams of new American music, he is now "music director laureate". At his other pride and joy — the New World Symphony, the Miami-based training academy for top young musicians he founded in 1987 — he has reluctantly cut his workload and become "artistic director laureate".

"My interpretation of the word 'laureate' is that I can do absolutely what I like musically without having a single administrative or fundraising responsibility," he says. "It remains to be seen whether that's the case."

Because orchestras still desperately need the clout of big beasts such as MTT (as he is universally known) to fight their corner? "It's true that after the pandemic, and with these big social issues like Black Lives Matter and #MeToo affecting everything from what music you play to who you employ, the orchestral world is in a state of flux," he replies. "When orchestras ask me for advice about repertoire or which soloists and conductors to work with, I reply: 'That depends on what sort of organisation you want to be right now.'"

Is that putting off brilliant young people from entering classical music? In fact, is there a possibility that orchestras as we know them won't exist in 30 years?

Tilson Thomas laughs and simply chucks the question back at me. "Well, you tell me. At this point in history, which do you think is the riskier career: classical music or newspaper journalism?

"What I do find hard to get my head round is when young people I think are enormously talented, as musicians and communicators, tell me they are abandoning the idea of music as a career because they want to be influencers instead. Influencers! You know, those social media types who are perceived as cool dudes and therefore able to sell products to other people. For some reason they find that a much more attractive and lucrative prospect than struggling to be a musician in a great international orchestra where often the first thing you have to do is submerge your personality to be accepted and fit in."

That may be the case in some orchestras, but surely Tilson Thomas's way of working is rather different. He has always seen the conductor's role as encouraging, not dictating. "I guess that's because I come from a theatrical family, not a musical one," he says. He is alluding to his grandparents, Boris and Bessie Thomashefsky, star performers in Manhattan's early 20th-century Yiddish theatre scene. "So very early in my life I saw that the best results were not achieved by directors who gave actors specific readings of each line. Good actors detest the 'say it like this' approach. Much better just to indicate a general direction and let them build on that. It's the same with the principal players in an orchestra."

Yet Tilson Thomas admits that age and experience make it much easier for a conductor to strike a balance between controlling everything and controlling nothing. "The problem for a young conductor doing a famous symphony with a top orchestra is that it's like a young director being hired to do *Hamlet* with great actors who have all done their parts many times before. What are you going to tell them that they haven't already thought of, already tried and probably discarded because it doesn't work?"

How did the young Tilson Thomas manage that? "Those early days were all about survival, so I developed some strategies," he replies. "If senior players in the orchestra queried an idea I had, I would say: 'Wasn't it Furtwängler who asked for it to be done this way?' The answer was no. I had just made it up. But they didn't know that."

> "I find it hard when talented young people abandon music to be influencers

One of those orchestras was the LSO, which, in the 1970s, had a ferocious reputation for chewing up conductors it didn't respect. "Of all the top orchestras in the world," Tilson Thomas says, "the LSO is the one to which I would apply that phrase 'whatever is at hand, they take care of business very quickly'. There is no request a conductor can make, however difficult or obscure, that they cannot achieve. But in those days that came with a certain impatience. They weren't keen on going on, shall we say, gentle voyages of discovery with a young conductor."

Nevertheless, Tilson Thomas and the LSO hit it off. It has been his go-to orchestra in London for almost 50 years. "Well, apart from a brief hiatus when the record companies — you remember record companies? — were playing some sort of contractual dance and I worked for a bit with the Philharmonia."

He remembers his first LSO engagement. "Stravinsky's Symphony in Three Movements was on the programme, and I was astounded that from the first downbeat in rehearsal the LSO played it with incredible energy and precision. I had conducted the piece elsewhere, but never encountered anything like this.

"But then we got to the last rehearsal, and suddenly it all sounded deflated and muted. So I shouted: 'Come on, guys! Let's get going!' Whereupon the LSO's principal oboist, a distinguished, very English gentleman called Roger Lord, raised his hand and said: "Young man, would you like the performance now, or perhaps some time later this evening?' It was a lesson I've never forgotten."

The partnership is not coming to an end with these Brahms concerts. Check the LSO's brochure for the coming season and you will see that, glioblastoma notwithstanding, Tilson Thomas is down to conduct the small matter of Mahler's Third Symphony next May. "Yes," he says with a smile. "See you again in 2024."

Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the LSO on May 17 and 21 at the Barbican (barbican.org.uk)

times2

Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles
Pages 14-16

Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai easy

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

Top left grid:

					6		5	9
			7	9		4	1	
4								
8				7			4	
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9	8			1			6	
					7			

Top right grid:

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	8	3	4	2	6			
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	7			9				5
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Centre grid:

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		7	2		3	4		

Bottom left grid:

					6			
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	8	5			9			7
	4	9	7					1
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Bottom right grid:

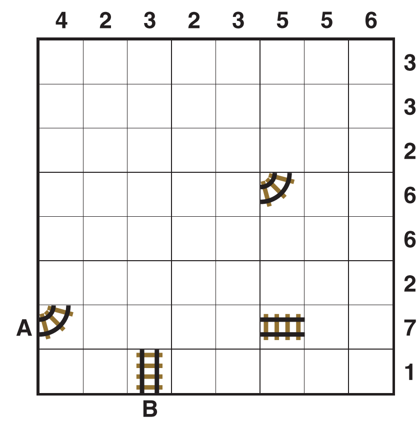
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Sudoku super fiendish

		8						
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	2	5	3		7			
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			6			2	9	3
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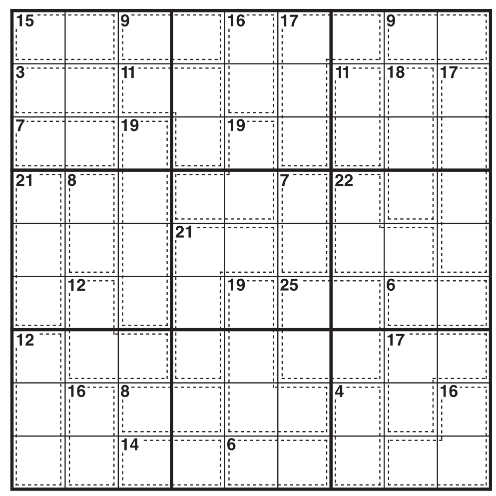
Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.



Killer deadly

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

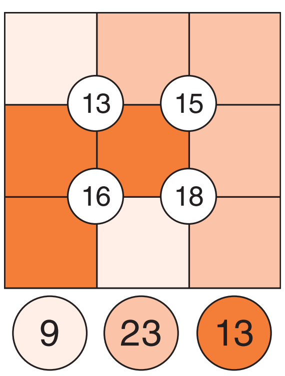


Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

□		□		□		□		□
		∨				∧		
□		□	>	□		□		□
∨								∧
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□		1		□		□		□
				∨				
□		□		□	>	□		□

Suko



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.co.uk

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.

11	10	22	23	11	25		18	26	26	11	3	14
16		18		23				18		8		21
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A B C D E F G H I J K L ~~M~~ N O P Q R S T U V W X ~~Y~~ ~~Z~~

1	2 Z	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Y
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 M	26

Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

	1			6	
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	5			3	
		1	4		
	3	2	1	5	

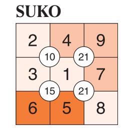
Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

Thursday's solutions

SAMURAI

7	9	3	2	5	6	4	1	8				7	4	9	6	8	2	3	5	1
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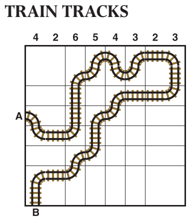
SUKO



MINI SUDOKU

3	1	4	6	2	5
5	2	6	3	1	4
2	3	1	5	4	6
4	6	5	2	3	1
6	4	2	1	5	3
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TRAIN TRACKS



FUTOSHIKI

2	>	1		3		5	>	4
∧								
4	<	5		1		2		3
		∨						∨
1	<	4		5		3		2
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3		2		4		1		5
5		3	>	2		4	>	1

SUDOKU

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8	2	4	9	1	5	3	6	7
7	8	1	2	5	9	4	3	6
3	9	6	7	8	4	5	1	2
2	4	5	1	6	3	8	7	9
4	3	7	6	9	8	2	5	1
6	1	8	5	4	2	7	9	3
9	5	2	3	7	1	6	4	8

KILLER

8	9	3	1	5	2	6	4	7
6	5	4	3	7	8	1	2	9
7	2	1	9	4	6	5	3	8
3	1	5	2	8	4	9	7	6
9	4	6	7	3	5	8	1	2
2	7	8	6	1	9	4	5	3
1	6	9	5	2	3	7	8	4
5	8	2	4	6	7	3	9	1
4	3	7	8	9	1	2	6	5

CODEWORD

A		E		J		L		R		L		A
C	E	L	L	O		A	M	A	Z	I	N	G
I		E		L		R		I		A		R
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I		E				E		D				E
C	O	N	Q	U	E	R	O	R		F	E	D
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A	S	H		E	X	E	M	P	L	A	R	Y
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Strewth, there's an awful lot going on down under

Carol Midgley TV review



Ten Pound Poms
BBC1
★★★☆☆

Whatever your view of **Ten Pound Poms** — and I'll come to mine in a moment — you couldn't accuse it of being "plodding". Strewth and crikey blimey, mate. In an hour we'd seen people travel from sleety Britain to sunny Australia on a six-week journey by ship, be put in what looked like a prison camp, get jobs, have fights, make friends, suffer prejudice, stand up against racism and accidentally kill an "Abo kid" while drunk in a car. Then drive away.

We'd also seen Michelle Keegan, playing Kate, dump her fiancé at a dockside hotel to sail alone, start work as a nurse in a hospital near Sydney, then put on stockings (obviously) to seduce an immigration official so that she could steal his keys and take what I presumed to be the file of a child who was forcibly "adopted" to Australia, as thousands of children in care scandalously were in postwar Britain. The plot was busier than a cheap stair carpet. And there are five episodes to go. Some streaming platforms would have wrung a ten-part series out of part one alone.

But is it any good? It's certainly very watchable, and the subject matter is excellent — the real experience of working-class British families who were promised the sunlit uplands of a new life in Australia to help to populate the country but found things weren't quite as advertised.

Warren Brow and Faye Marsay are strong as war-traumatised, hard-drinking Terry and his wife, Annie, from Stockport, who up sticks to take their children to a new life ("Fresh start," Terry says, squeezing his wife's hand in the taxi, as only people in TV dramas do). Although was I the only one who thought Annie looked barely older than her teenage daughter, played by Hattie Hook?

The hostility with which many were greeted in Australia ("Coming over here, taking our jobs") and the fact

JOHN PLATT/BBC



Michelle Keegan as Kate, a nurse searching Australia for a child

that Terry has to do the back-breaking hole-digging that no one else wants to do is a nice flip on the similar prejudice we have seen in this country. "You have blacks in Britain don't you?" growls psycho Dean. "Well over here, you're the black." It is a horrible, menacing moment, but David Field puts in a great, scene-stealing performance as Dean, a man who is as violent a kick-off merchant as he is a racist.

I doubt that Annie would have been quite so shocked and bewildered as she was made out to be when an Aboriginal woman was humiliated and forced to go to the back of a queue in a department store. Coming from 1950s Britain? It's not as if she'd not have witnessed racism. But she gets over her outrage pretty quickly when she is given the chance to work at the store.

I do think this drama is trying to do too much. The story of Kate trying to find what I assume is her child, whisked off to some Australian orphanage as part of the "white stock" export plan, deserves a series to itself, as anyone who has seen *Oranges and Sunshine*, the film about the scandal, will know. It shouldn't be a slightly theatrical derring-do side-plot in which Kate must break into buildings and pretend to be knocked over by a bike. This is a decent production, but less is so often more.

Radio choice
Ben Dowell



The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece
Radio 4, 10.45pm

The actor and all-round nice guy Tom Hanks, *above*, is quite a keen wordsmith. In 2017 *Uncommon Type*, his collection of short stories, was published, and his first novel is Radio 4's book at bedtime. It is written in the voice of Joe Shaw, a film journalist who has been commissioned by a director to chart the making of his latest project, and the book is essentially Hanks's take on the business, good and bad. On the ugly side is the film's ghastly star OK Bailey, who fails to meet Hanks's chief rule for being a performer: just turn up on time.

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Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Afternoons on Times Radio **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. Live discussion of the day's news **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive. Analysis of the day's news **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am Gary Davies **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews. Cerys chats to the musician, actor, author and songwriter Guy Davis ahead of his UK tour **10.00** DJ Spoony's Magnificent 7 **10.30** DJ Spoony's Magnificent 7 **12.00** OJ Borg **2.30am** One Hit Wonders with OJ Borg **3.00** Tracks of My Years **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Classical breakfast show. Including **7.00**, **8.00** News. **7.30**, **8.30** News headlines
9.00 Essential Classics
Georgia Mann presents a selection of music and features, with new discoveries, musical surprises and plenty of familiar favourites
12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
Donald Macleod explores the composer's ballets with Royal Ballet artistic director Monica Mason and choreographer Matthew Bourne, beginning with his first — *Swan Lake*. Tchaikovsky (*Swan Lake*, Op 20 — Act 2 excerpt; *The Seasons — June*: *Barcarolle*, Op 37b No 6; *No Reply, No Word, No Greeting — Six Romances*, Op 28 No 5; String Quartet No 3, Op 30, Allegretto vivo e scherzando; *Swan Lake*, Op 20 — Act 2 excerpt; *Swan Lake*, Op 20 — Act 3 excerpt; and *Swan Lake*, Op 20 — Act 4 excerpt)
1.00pm Live Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
Hannah French presents from London's Wigmore Hall with the violinist Alina Ibragimova and the pianist Cédric Tiberghien. Schumann (Violin Sonata No 1 in A minor, Op 105; Violin Sonata No 2 in D minor, Op 121)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
Penny Gore begins a week of programmes featuring the Ulster Orchestra performing at Belfast's Ulster Hall, starting with Beethoven's Fourth Symphony. Plus, a new recording of Gershwin's *An American in Paris* by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Daniel Harding conducting the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, and part of a concert of Strozzi given by the Hathor Consort in Antwerp in February. Couperin (*Passacaille*, from *'L'Espagnole, deuxième ordre des Nations'*); Gershwin (*An American in Paris*); Schumann (*Overture to Manfred*, Op. 115, after Byron); Antheil (Trumpet Sonata); Beethoven (Symphony no.4 in B flat major, Op.60); Strozzi (*L'Amante modesto* Op1'13; *Merce di voi*, Op.1'1; *Lagrime me*, Op.7'4; *Al battitor de bronzo*, Op.1'18; *Begli occhi*, Op.3'9; *L'Eraclito amoroso*, Op.2'14); and Dvorak (*The Wild Dove*, Op.110)
4.30 New Generation Artists
The mezzo Ema Nikolovska and the viola player Timothy Ridout perform works by Brahms, while the violinist Johan Dalene and the pianist Nicola Eimer play Rautavaara's *Notturno e danza*
5.00 In Tune
With violinist Esther Yoo
7.00 Classical Mixtape
In a week of specially curated episodes for Mental Health Awareness Week, Petroc Trelawny shares music he has turned to in times of trouble
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert
Fiona Talkington introduces a concert from the 2022 Salzburg Festival with Maxime Pascal conducting the SWR Symphony Orchestra in Honegger's oratorio *Joan of Arc at the Stake,* with Irène Jacob (spoken role: Jeanne d'Arc) and Jérôme Kircher (spoken role: Frère Dominique); Honegger (*Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher — Joan of Arc at the Stake*)
9.00 Ultimate Calm
Olafur Arnalds shares soothing songs inspired by water, including pieces by Joanna Brouk, Lisa Lerkenfeldt and Ravel. Plus, Mary Anne Hobbs' Safe Haven pick
10.00 Music Matters
Tom Services chats to the singer and multi-instrumentalist Rhiannon Giddens, and also talks to the baritone Christian Gerhaher during rehearsals for Berg's *Wozzeck* (r)
10.45 The Essay: De Waal's Itinerant Pots
Edmund de Waal explores the influence of Hans Coper on his work (r)
11.00 Night Tracks
A soundtrack for late-night listening
12.30am Through the Night (r)

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
News headlines and analysis
9.00 Start the Week
Adam Rutherford leads a discussion on the ethics of banking
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police
By Matt Lloyd-Rose (1/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour
Nuala McGovern presents the programme offering a female perspective on the world
11.00 Blood on the Dance Floor
Jordan Dunbar's investigation into the murder of gay police officer Darren Bradshaw brings him to the killing itself — a Friday night in a Belfast nightclub that ended in tragedy (4/6)
11.30 Lady Killers with Lucy Worsley
The historian investigates a nurse with a penchant for poisoning (9/10)
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Frontlines of Journalism
The difficulties of getting to the truth of a news story (6/10)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 This Cultural Life
John Wilson talks to artist duo Gilbert & George (7/12) (r)
3.00 Round Britain Quiz
Myfanwy Alexander and David Edwards take on Adele Geras and Stuart Maconie (6/12)
3.30 The Food Programme (r)
4.00 Is Psychiatry Working
4.30 Beyond Belief
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Just a Minute
With Paul Merton, Felicity Ward, Ivo Graham and Josie Lawrence (7/8)
7.00 The Archers
Tempers flare at Bridge Farm
7.15 Front Row
8.00 Buying a British Dad
8.30 Crossing Continents
A Syrian refugee searching for his son after Turkey's devastating earthquake (r)
9.00 Supersenses
Professor Ben Garrod examines how touch could become digitised (4/5) (r)
9.30 Start the Week
Adam Rutherford leads a discussion on the ethics of banking (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece
Tom Hanks reads his debut novel about the making of a star-studded action film over the course of 75 years, starting with a boy who immortalises his dead uncle in comic-book form. ***See Radio Choice*** (1/10)
11.00 Word of Mouth
Vocabulary and language (6/6) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: Into the Night: A Year with the Police (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
8.00am Round the Horne **8.30** Dry Slopes **9.00** The Write Stuff **9.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **10.00** Dangerous Samples **11.00** Peeler **11.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **12.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **12.15pm** Young Victoria **12.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **1.00** Round the Horne **1.30** Dry Slopes **2.00** The Write Stuff **2.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **3.00** Dangerous Samples **4.00** Peeler **4.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **5.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **5.15** Young Victoria **5.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **6.00** Round the Horne **6.30** Dry Slopes **7.00** The Write Stuff. With crime writer Mark Billingham and journalist Jane Thynne **7.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet. By David Spicer. First aired in 2003 **8.00** Radiolab. Jad Abumrad and the Radiolab team investigate a strange world **8.55** Inheritance Tracks. Welsh actor Michael Sheen chooses two songs with special meaning for him **9.00** Mastertapes. The Waterboys' album *Fisherman's Blues* **9.30** A Gathering Light. Thriller, by Jennifer Donnelly **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth. By Julian Simpson **10.00** Comedy Club: Just a Minute. With Paul Merton, Shaparak Khorsandi, Daliso Chaponda and Heidi Regan **10.30** And Now in Colour. Comedy sketches with Tim Firth. From 1990 **11.00** The News Quiz. With Susie McCabe, Ian Smith and Anushka Aktsana **11.30** The Skivers. Featuring dolphins and Sue Lawley's secret

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **10.00** Nick Bright **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off: Leicester City v Liverpool (Kick-off **8.00**) **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only
5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

6 Music
Digital only
5.00am Chris Hawkins **7.30** Lauren Laverne **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** Marc Riley **9.00** Deb Grant **12.00** Nick Cave: In Their Own Words **1.00am** Nick Cave and the Birthday Party — Peel Sessions **2.00** Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds at Glastonbury **3.00** Nick Cave at 6 Music and Radio 2 **4.00** The Nick Cave Playlist

Virgin Radio
Digital only
6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with cinch **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven **10.00** Calm Classics. Ritula Shah presents **1.00am** Sam Pittis **4.00** Early Breakfast

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Ben Dowell

Steeltown Murders
BBC1, 9pm

Top pick

It's summer 1973 in Port Talbot, South Wales, and a girl called Sandra Newton has been murdered. Local detectives suspect her boyfriend to be the culprit and are focusing their energies on intimidating him. It's a familiarly grim entrée into the 1970s world of whiskery faces, leather coats and questionable values that stands in sharp contrast to scenes set in the early 2000s. Here, DCI Paul Bethell (played by Philip Glenister in a neat reversal of his Seventies cop thug in *Life on Mars*) washes his face after seeing glimpses of his old Seventies self (played by Scott Arthur) when the case was live. When the case is reopened, latter-day Bethell is naturally keen to help. Sandra's killer had never been found and there appears to be evidence that he also murdered two other girls, Geraldine Hughes and Pauline Floyd. The complexity and sensitivity of the real events depicted presents a tough assignment for the scriptwriter Ed Whitmore (who wrote the true crime series *Manhunt*) but he does a good job. As this is a case where DNA breakthroughs were crucial, he needs to be a sharp technician. Whitmore also has a keen eye for the contrasting values of the two time periods and his approach feels compassionate towards the families of the victims. Under Marc Evans's direction it is also a stunningly visual experience, the green Welsh hills offering a stark contrast to the grimy townscapes.

Succession
Sky Atlantic/Now, 2am/9pm

After last week's savagely intense row with Shiv, it's finally election day for the Wambsgans man. He's exhausted, his fired predecessor Cyd is spreading poison about him "like a cobra with an iPhone", and the polling is agonisingly poised. If the Democrat Daniel Jiménez wins, the Matsson deal goes through and Shiv is happy. Kendall and Roman are scheming for the Republican candidate Jeryd Mencken, who has promised to block the GoJo deal. Not unlike ATN's election night coverage, it makes for another gripping night of television.

Early

BBC1
6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain. New series. The new boss of one of the country's biggest energy firms talks customer service **10.00** Frontline Fightback. New series. A couple catch three masked men trying to steal a catalytic converter **10.45** Defenders UK. An 80-year-old woman is tricked out of an estimated £50,000 **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Luca turns to unusual methods to help a patient (AD) **2.15** Money for Nothing. New series. Sarah Moore presents the show from Wallyford Recycling Centre **3.00** Escape to the Country. Sonali Shah is house-hunting in Norfolk for a buyer who wants to establish holiday lets and also rehome dogs in need **3.45** The Bidding Room (r) **4.30** The Repair Shop. Jay Blades and the team restore a precious diary all the way from Bangladesh, a handmade leather apron and a toy monkey in need of rejuvenation (r) (AD) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz in which contestants try to score the fewest points possible by giving the least obvious correct answers to questions (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2
6.45am Bargain Hunt (r) (AD) **7.30** Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Cornwall (r) (AD, SL) **8.30** Designing the Hebrides (r) (AD, SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** Eat Well for Less? (r) (AD) **3.15** Secret Britain. Ellie Harrison, Chris Hollins and Denise Lewis explore the Lake District, one of England's most popular national parks, where they find out about the area's dark and illicit past (r) (AD) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. Ten aspiring designers compete to get their big break in the world of commercial interior design, beginning by transforming upmarket rental apartments in Manchester (r) (AD) **5.15** Flog It! Catherine Southon and James Lewis are at Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex, where a Chinese wall plaque catches James's eye, and Paul Martin explores the history of the building (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Nabil Abdulrashid, Luke Kempner, Sarah Millican and Philippa Perry take part in a series of games (r) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip. The newsreader heads to the medieval Tuscan town of Barga, where more than half the locals have Scottish connections

ITV1
6.00am Good Morning Britain. Morning magazine featuring a lively mix of news and current affairs, plus health, entertainment and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of interviews, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. Interviews and studio discussion from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the team visit Aerospace Bristol, where Mark Stevens hits a slight problem when he tries to buy a pair of luxury watches (r) (AD) **3.00** Tenable. Family team the Mancunian Jacks take it in turns to find the answers to top 10 lists, before trying to score a perfect 10 in the final round (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh hosts as four more contestants work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

Channel 4
6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) (AD) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. In Almería, mother-and-son duo Sharon and Shaun Garner catch up with a couple, who back in 2019 wanted to swap their UK life for Spanish inland country views (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Jean Johansson travels to Spain's southern Costa Blanca to help a former NHS midwife and a brewery worker find the perfect property where they can spend their retirement **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. A couple from Norwich find shoes in their bread oven, and a pair's dream of buying a hamlet in Normandy is in jeopardy when their house sale falls through (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Marge starts a carpentry business, but quickly learns she will need more than mere skill if her venture is to succeed, so she appoints Homer as a figurehead (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Sam is determined to do whatever it takes to help his girlfriend Zoe's career, and Sally makes a decision about what to do with the McQueen's leftover winnings (r) (AD)

Channel 5
6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with phone-ins and viewers' correspondence **11.15** Storm Huntley. New series. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm Huntley, who takes viewers calls on the biggest stories **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. New series. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions on them **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Justin goes into protective father mode, Theo makes a desperate play to get a hold of Ava, and John turns his ire on Mali (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: A Date With Deceit (12, TVM, 2023)** A woman recently released from prison tries to prove her innocence by tracking down her ex-husband, who framed her for fraud. Thriller starring Hannah Jane McMurray **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. After investing in the refurbishment of their Spanish bar, a pair face uncertain times when it is forced to close because of Covid-19 restrictions (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. The Blaggards take on the regular quiz experts (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Airedale Terriers take part in the quiz show (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



Planet Hope: A new podcast

In our new podcast series, Planet Hope, Environment Editor Adam Vaughan meets the experts finding solutions for our changing planet.

Evening

BBC1
7.00 The One Show Live chat and topical reports, presented by Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas

7.30 EastEnders The bailiffs come for the Slaters, and Elaine and Linda deal with the fallout of The Vic break-in (AD)

8.00 Private ADHD Clinics Exposed: Panorama Investigating private clinics offering adults assessment for ADHD. *See Viewing Guide*

8.30 Scam Interceptors Ethical hackers hunt down cyber criminals (5/10) (r)

9.00 Steeltown Murders New series. DCI Paul Bethell tries to piece together a past that has haunted both him and a community for almost 30 years. Crime drama starring Philip Glenister. *See Viewing Guide* (1/4) (AD)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather

10.40 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Diane Morgan hosts an extended edition of the current affairs quiz with comedian Desiree Burch and journalist Matt Chorley joining team captains Paul Merton and Ian Hislop (5/10)

11.25 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star The nine remaining contestants create looks for Sephora's "Express all of you" beauty campaign (2/8) (r)

12.30am-6.00 BBC News

BBC2
7.00 Digging for Britain Alice Roberts visits more archaeological sites around the country, with digs in southern England revealing a previously unknown Roman town, a Tudor ship buried beneath a quarry and evidence of Henry VIII's financial forgery under the Tower of London (1/6) (r) (AD)

8.00 Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers Paul Murton explores the lower reaches of the Spey (3/6)

8.30 University Challenge The first of the semi-finals as two teams of four students battle it out in an effort to progress to the grand final

9.00 The Stones and Brian Jones The director Nick Broomfield examines the life and legacy of the founder member of the Rolling Stones, looking at the relationships and rivalries within the band in their formative years. *See Viewing Guide*

10.30 Newsnight Victoria Derbyshire presents analysis of the day's events

11.15 Colette (15, 2018) A woman is persuaded to write up her semi-autobiographical tales, which become a sensation when published under her husband's name. Biopic starring Keira Knightley and Dominic West. *See Viewing Guide*

1.00am Sign Zone: Countryfile Matt Baker and Margherita Taylor revisit the New Forest to catch up with the communities who have come together to help Ukrainian refugees (r) (SL) **1.55-2.55** Reunion Hotel. A woman thanks the fundraisers who helped her child to walk. Last in the series (r) (AD, SL)

ITV1
7.30 Emmerdale Mack is shamed as Moira pieces his months of lies together, and Kim is on board with Caleb's plan to convince Moira to sell Butlers (AD)

8.00 Coronation Street Amy tells Mia she was raped by Aaron, but her warning backfires. Elsewhere, Daniel urges Daisy to tell Ryan the truth about Crystal. David visits Max and quizzes him about his mental state (AD)

9.00 Without Sin New series. A woman meets the man imprisoned for the murder of her daughter as part of the Restorative Justice programme. Psychological thriller starring Vicky McClure. *See Viewing Guide* (1/4) (AD)

10.00 ITV News at Ten

10.30 Regional News

10.45 Unbelievable Moments Caught on Camera A selection of extraordinary eyewitness footage, including the dramatic moment a man in danger of being swept over a steep waterfall is rescued from an icy river (r) (AD)

11.40 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling (r)

1.15am Teleshopping 3.00 Alison Hammond in at the Rich End: The Riviera. The presenter is on a mission to find out what makes the super-rich tick as she samples eye-watering opulence first hand (r) (AD, SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00** Made in Britain. Learning about the UK's finest pool tables (r) (AD, SL)

Channel 4
7.00 Channel 4 News

8.00 Sarah Beeny's New Life in the Country Sarah and Graham discover a whole load of odd antiques and family heirlooms, which they use to transform their downstairs cloakroom into a Victorian cupboard of curiosities (5/7) (AD)

9.00 Rescue: Extreme Medics New series. An air ambulance is dispatched to the island of Mull, where a 23-year-old rally driver has rolled his car down a 20-foot embankment. Plus, a coastguard helicopter flies to a remote sea loch to rescue a woman who has fallen down a waterfall (AD)

10.00 First Dates A woman whose exes tend to marry someone else soon after the break-up is paired with a wedding photographer in search of a picture-perfect love of his own, while a former youth Olympic trampolinist from Essex fears his ginger hair is holding him back (AD)

11.05 Naked Attraction Anna Richardson hosts as a movie buff and professional online gamer from Camberley and a 28-year-old from Cheltenham search for their perfect matches (r) (AD)

12.10am 999: On the Front Line (r) **1.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **1.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **2.45** Grand Designs (r) (AD,SL) **3.40** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces (r) (AD, SL) **4.35** Jamie's One-Pan Wonders (r) (AD) **5.00** Jamie's Comfort Food (r) **5.15-6.05** Moneybags (r)

Channel 5
7.00 Traffic Cops An officer attends a fatal collision involving a motorcycle and car, where he and a colleague secure the site for crash investigators, who try to find out what happened (6/11) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Police Interceptors New series. Officers pursue a vehicle with obscured number plates and it speeds the wrong way down the A46, while a disqualified driver dons a unique disguise

9.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders Officers are on the tail of thieves who have stolen more than £5,000 worth of luxury goods from a Cheshire shop and the dramatic chase takes them into Manchester city centre at rush hour (7/10)

10.00 Ambulance: Code Red A major accident leaves a driver trapped in his car after it went out of control, smashed into a wall and flipped sideways onto a driveway, requiring all of the emergency services (r)

11.05 999: Critical Condition A 26-year-old man is rushed into hospital following a car crash and has a potentially life-threatening aortic tear, while a university student is brought in to have a tumour removed (r)

12.05am Police Interceptors (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Walking Britain's Lost Railways (r) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.40** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.45-6.00** Paw Patrol (r) (SL)

Panorama
BBC1, 8pm

With a sharp increase in the number of adults who think they have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), the NHS has been overwhelmed by patients looking for a diagnosis, and thousands have turned to private clinics for assessment. In *False Diagnosis: The ADHD Scandal*, the reporter Rory Carson poses as a patient to reveal how some clinics charge large fees for a short online consultation, and finds evidence suggesting that almost every patient is diagnosed. The programme also exposes clinics that are prescribing drugs without proper checks.

The Stones and Brian Jones
BBC2, 9pm

Brian Jones, the handsome founder member of the Rolling Stones, drowned in a swimming pool in 1969, three weeks after leaving the band. A gentle young man, some of his bandmates always had an inkling that he wouldn't make old bones and Nick Broomfield's personal and thoughtful *Arena* film suggests he was possibly too sensitive for the rock star life. As well as interviews with all the main players and freshly unearthed archive footage, it starts with photos of Jones in his childhood and ends with a heartbreaking letter from his father.

Without Sin
ITV1, 9pm

A scheduled TV airing of a four-part drama starring Line of Duty's Vicky McClure that has already been on the catch-up service ITVX. McClure plays Stella, a woman contacted from prison by Charles Stone (Johnny Harris), the man she believes murdered her 14-year-old daughter three years previously. Stone wants her to visit him and, after much agonising, she heads to the prison expecting to meet a man keen on atoning for his terrible actions. However, what he has to say turns her life upside down all over again and fires the starting gun on an absorbing and surprising story.

Film Colette
BBC2, 11.15pm

Keira Knightley stars in the story of the novelist Colette's liberating journey away from a controlling man, the "literary entrepreneur" Henry Gauthier-Villars (Dominic West), who colonises her talents. The performances are uniformly just fine. (15, 2018)

Sky Max

6.00am Stargate SG-1 (r) **8.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **9.00** Quantum Leap (r) **10.00** The Flash (r) **11.00** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **2.00** MacGyver (r) **3.00** Quantum Leap (r) **4.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **5.00** The Flash (r) **6.00** Stargate SG-1. Sci-fi drama (r) **7.00** Stargate SG-1. The Goa'uld try to enslave a planet for the second time (r) **8.00** NCIS: Los Angeles. The team assists the cold case homicide unit (r) **9.00** Bel-Air. Will alienates himself from the basketball team (2/10) (r) **10.00** Rob & Romesh vs Team GB: Part 1. The comedians try their hand at weightlifting, hockey and slalom canoe (r) (AD) **11.00** Rob & Romesh vs Team GB: Part 2. The comedians try clay pigeon shooting (r) (AD) **12.00** The Force: North East. Real life crime documentary (r) **1.00am** Road Wars (r) **2.00** The Flash **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** MacGyver (r) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Urban Secrets (r) **7.55** The Wire (r) **10.05** True Blood (r) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.20** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **3.30** The Wire (r) **5.45** True Blood (r) **6.50** True Blood. Bill worries about what the future might hold for Sookie (r) **7.55** Game of Thrones. Margaery and her grandmother encourage Sansa to speak freely about Joffrey, and Arya encounters outlaw group the Brotherhood Without Banners (r) (AD) **9.00** Succession. Drama about a dysfunctional media dynasty starring Jeremy Strong and Sarah Snook. *See Viewing Guide* (8/10) (r) **10.10** Patrick Melrose. Patrick attends his mother's funeral as he tries to put the ghosts of the past to rest (5/5) (r) (AD) **11.20** Billions. Under pressure to make progress and with his case stalling, Chuck develops a new strategy (4/12) (r) (AD) **12.25am** Billions (r) (AD) **1.30** Catherine the Great (r) (AD) **2.35** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **3.40** In Treatment (r) **4.10** Urban Secrets (r)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am Harrow: A Very British School (r) (AD) **7.00** Discovering: Robert Duvall (r) (AD) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** The Sixties (r) (AD) **9.50** Hillary (r) (AD) **11.00** Escobar by Escobar (r) **12.00 FILM: Breslin and Hamill — Deadline Artists (12, 2018) 2.00pm FILM: Bully. Coward. Victim. The Story of Roy Cohn (PG, 2019)** The controversial life of high profile New York broker Roy Cohn **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Robert Duvall (r) (AD) **6.00** The Sixties (r) (AD) **6.50** Hillary (r) (AD) **8.00** Escobar by Escobar (1/4) (r) **9.00 FILM: Robin Williams — Come Inside My Mind (12, 2018)** An intimate portrait of the comedian and actor (AD) **11.20** The Man Who Played with Fire (1/4) (r) **12.20am FILM: I Am Evidence (PG, 2017)** Documentary, directed by Trish Adlesic and Geeta Gandbhir (AD) **2.10** Dan Carter: A Perfect 10 (r) (AD) **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Robert Duvall (r) (AD)

Sky Arts

6.00am Janine and the 12 Stradivari **7.10** A John Williams Celebration: LA Opening Gala 2014 **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Steve McQueen (AD) **12.00** David Hockney at the Royal Academy of Arts **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **2.00** Reinventing the Orchestra with Charles Hazlewood **3.00** The Directors (AD) **4.00** Discovering: Maureen O'Hara (AD) **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.00** Pavarotti: The Duets — The Best of Pavarotti and Friends. Collaborations **8.35** André Rieu: Live at the Royal Albert Hall. The acclaimed violinist performs a programme including *Voices of Spring, Vienna Blood* and *The Blue Danube* by Johann Strauss II **10.35** HMS Pinafore with ENO **12.35am** Punchdrunk: Behind the Mask. The story of the theatre company **1.35** Jack B Yeats: The Man Who Painted Ireland **2.45** Why Do We Dance? **4.00** The South Bank Show **5.00** Auction

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans. Including news and views on today's early stories and a look at the back pages **10.00** The Football Show. A look at all the major stories making the football headlines **11.30** Ref Watch. The Sky Sports team looks back over some of the big refereeing decisions **12.00** The Football Show **1.00pm** Sky Sports News **3.00** Live Indian Premier League: Gujarat Titans v Sunrisers Hyderabad. Coverage of the T20 match from Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad **6.30** Live MNF: Leicester City v Liverpool (Kick-off **8.00**). Coverage of the Premier League clash from King Power Stadium, as the home side face a tough test in their quest to stay in the top flight. The reverse fixture at the end of December finished in a 2-1 defeat for the Foxes. Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall scored a fourth-minute opener, but defender Wout Faes scored two own goals in the space of seven first-half minutes to give Liverpool the three points **11.00** Sky Sports News

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TalkTV

6.00am James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show. A look over all the big stories to start the day **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host looks through the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Hard-hitting monologues, debates and dedicated time for viewers' calls **4.00** Vanessa Feltz. The big stories of the day from the world of politics, current affairs and showbiz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle. The straight-talking host takes on the issues that really matter **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events with an hour of debate and interviews **9.00** The Talk. A panel of famous faces debate the latest topics everybody is talking about **10.00** First Edition. Taking an energetic look at tomorrow's newspapers **11.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **12.00** Petrie Hosken. Bringing the best and latest news stories overnight **1.00am** Jeremy Kyle Live **2.00** Vanessa Feltz **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories

BBC4

7.00pm Paul Merson: A Walk Through My Life. The football pundit and former Arsenal and England midfielder walks through North Yorkshire, reflecting on his life, career and faith **8.00** Mindful Escapes: Breathe, Release, Restore. Why breathing is so important to becoming still and being in the moment (1/4) **8.30** Life of a Mountain: A Year on Helvellyn. Documentary capturing a year in the life of the Lake District's most popular peak, featuring insights from those that live by, care for and visit the mountain **10.00** The Sky at Night. The team explores the threat of an asteroid impact on Earth and meet space scientists who are developing methods of defence that sound like the stuff of sci-fi **10.30** The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway. Part one of two. Following the final stages of the construction of London's Crossrail **11.30** Building Britain's Biggest Nuclear Power Station. The challenges involved with building the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station (1/2) **12.30am** H2O: The Molecule That Made Us **1.25** Novels That Shaped Our World **2.25-3.25** The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway

Talking Pictures

6.00am FILM: What a Whopper! (PG, 1961) Comedy starring Adam Faith (b/w) **7.45 FILM: The Wedding of Lilli Marlene (U, 1953)** Drama sequel starring Lisa Daniely (b/w) **9.30 FILM: Two on the Tiles (PG, 1951)** Comedy starring Herbert Lom (b/w) **11.00 FILM: The Spaniard's Curse (U, 1958)** Thriller starring Tony Wright (b/w) **12.35pm FILM: Night Boat to Dublin (PG, 1946)** Second World War spy thriller starring Robert Newton (b/w) **2.30** Crown Court **3.00 FILM: SOS Pacific (PG, 1959)** Adventure with Richard Attenborough (b/w) **4.45 FILM: Dangerous Cargo (PG, 1954)** Crime drama starring Jack Watling (b/w) **6.00** The Footage Detectives **7.00** The Champions **8.00** The Main Chance **9.00 FILM: Strange Days (18, 1995)** Sci-fi thriller starring Ralph Fiennes **11.50** Secret Army **12.55am** Crown Court **2.25 FILM: Ladyhawke (PG, 1985)** Medieval fantasy adventure starring Rutger Hauer and Michelle Pfeiffer **4.50** The Edgar Wallace Mystery Theatre

Film4

11.00am Texas Lady (U, 1955) Western starring Claudette Colbert **12.45pm Ministry of Fear (PG, 1944)** Spy thriller starring Ray Milland (b/w) **2.30 Three Hours to Kill (PG, 1954)** Western starring Dana Andrews **4.05 The Quiet Man (U, 1952)** Romantic comedy drama with John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara **6.45 The Devil Wears Prada (PG, 2006)** Comedy drama starring Meryl Streep (AD) **9.00 Jojo Rabbit (12, 2019)** During the Second World War, a lonely German boy discovers that his single mother is hiding a Jewish girl in their attic. Comedy starring Roman Griffin Davis and Thomasin McKenzie (AD) **11.10 Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (12, 2016)** A boy investigates a mystery left by his grandfather, and comes across a home for children with special powers. Fantasy adventure starring Eva Green, Asa Butterfield and Samuel L Jackson (AD) **1.45am-4.00 Catch Me Daddy (15, 2014)** A Pakistani girl runs away from home to be with her British boyfriend — a move that enrages her father, who sends her brother to find her. Thriller starring Sameena Jabeen Ahmed

More4

8.55am Kirstie's House of Craft **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Come Dine with Me: The Professionals. The Cloak and Dagger kicks off a week's competition from Bristol **6.55** Escape to the Château: DIY (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs. A couple disagree over plans for a home in their garden (3/10) (AD) **9.00** Car SOS. Tim and Fuzz are off to Huddersfield to rescue a 1992 VW Corrado (AD) **10.00** Inside Bentley: A Great British Motor Car. Documentary going behind the scenes at the car company's plant as work gets underway on a range of 4x4s, from the factory floor to the world's most exclusive car showroom (AD) **11.00** 24 Hours in A&E. Cameras follow a 54-year-old, who arrives at St George's hospital with symptoms of a suspected stroke, and a 76-year-old turns up in A&E with a severe head injury (9/9) (AD) **12.05am** Car SOS. Tim and Fuzz are off to Huddersfield to rescue a 1992 VW Corrado (AD) **1.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **2.05** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.10-3.40** A Place in the Sun

ITV2

6.00am World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.00** Dress to Impress (SL) **8.00** One Tree Hill **9.00** The O.C **10.00** Secret Crush **11.00** Dress to Impress **12.00** I'm a Celebrity... South Africa Final (AD) **1.30pm** In for a Penny (AD) **2.00** Family Fortunes **3.05** Chuck **4.00** One Tree Hill **5.00** I'm a Celebrity... South Africa Final (AD) **6.30** In for a Penny (AD) **7.00** Superstore (AD) **7.30** Superstore (AD) **8.00** Bob's Burgers (AD) **8.30** Bob's Burgers (AD) **9.00** Family Guy (AD) **9.30** Family Guy (AD) **10.00** Family Guy (AD) **10.30** Family Guy. Peter tries to rebuild a dispirited Joe's self-confidence (AD) **11.05** Family Guy (AD) **11.35** American Dad! (AD) **12.00** American Dad! (AD) **12.30am** Bob's Burgers (AD) **1.25** Superstore (AD) **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (SL) **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** Never the Twain **9.20** Wild at Heart (AD) **11.30** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.40** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.45** Foyle's War (AD) **5.55** Heartbeat (AD) **6.55** Heartbeat. Greengrass attempts to organise Aidensfield's car rally (AD) **8.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot. A man receives threatening letters (AD) **9.00** One More Audience with Dame Edna. The outrageous Dame Edna — also known as the late comedian Barry Humphries — subjects her audience to her unique brand of humour, singing and dancing. The Dame applies her razor-sharp repartee to questions asked by Sir Yehudi Menuhin and Bill Wyman among others **10.00** Wire in the Blood. Clinical psychologist Tony Hill is called in to help investigate the abduction of a child from a troubled housing estate — but the case turns into a murder inquiry when her body is discovered (1/5) **12.05am** Wild at Heart (AD) **2.20** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am Hot Shots **6.05** Minder (AD) **7.05** The Professionals (AD, SL) **8.10** The Champions **9.15** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.30** Magnum, PI **11.35** The Champions **12.35pm** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **1.50** Giant Lobster Hunters **2.50** Magnum, PI **3.50** The Professionals (AD) **4.55** Minder (AD) **6.00** Premiership Rugby Union Highlights. David Flatman and Topsy Ojo present action from the semi-finals, as the line-up for the Grand Final on May 27 was confirmed (r) **6.55** BattleBots **8.00** MotoGP Highlights. The Grand Prix de France. Action from the fifth round of the season **9.00 FILM: Collateral Damage (15, 2002)** Action thriller starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Francesca Neri (AD) **11.15 FILM: The Rock (15, 1996)** An FBI chemical weapons expert and a jailed SAS veteran must break into Alcatraz to bring down a renegade general and his men. Action thriller with Sean Connery and Nicolas Cage (AD) **2.00am** Motorsport UK. Action from Donington Park **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.25** Birds of a Feather **7.55** May to December **8.35** To the Manor Born **9.15** Classic Holby City **10.35** Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Tenko **3.00** Lovejoy **4.10** Peak Practice **5.20** May to December **6.00** To the Manor Born **6.40** Last of the Summer Wine **7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. Compo, Clegg and Truly meet a woman with mystical powers **8.00** Jonathan Creek. Feature-length special. A dead body impossibly vanishes from a locked study — but the mysteries do not end there for Jonathan and Joey (AD) **10.00** New Tricks. The establishment of a new Ucos section takes Gerry and Steve to Glasgow, where they assist the investigation into the 1993 unsolved murder of a bookie (9/10) (AD) **11.20** Silent Witness. Ross suggests a possible link between a strangled woman and another unsolved murder, while a sceptical Sam is deeply disturbed by a previous case (AD) **1.20am** The Line of Beauty **2.30** Classic Holby City (SL) **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.10am The Living Universe **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **9.00** World War Weird **10.00** World War Two From Above **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **2.00pm** Bangers and Cash **4.00** World War Weird **5.00** World War Two From Above **6.00** Great British Railway Journeys **6.30** Great British Railway Journeys **7.00** Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam (4/6) **7.30** Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam. The development of the steamship (5/6) **8.00** How To Build A Motor Car. A look at how the Morgan Plus Six sportscar is hand-built **9.00** Abandoned Engineering. New series. Air Studios, on the Island of Montserrat, that became a mecca for rock legends (AD) **10.00** Bangers and Cash. A restorer delights buyers with his 1966 Sunbeam Rapier, and Sarah takes a shine to a caravan (2/10) **11.00** Abandoned Engineering. Examining a ghost island once belonging to a secretive country on Europe's fringes (2/11) (AD) **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** The Living Universe **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: **6.55pm-7.00** Party Election Broadcast By Sinn Féin (r) **8.00** Family Footsteps **8.30-9.00** Private ADHD Clinics Exposed: Panorama. *See Viewing Guide* **10.40** Bikes! NW200. Highlights of the North West 200 **11.40** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **12.25am** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (r) **1.25-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: **8.30pm-9.00** Scotland's Home of the Year **11.25** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights (r) **12.10am** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (r) **1.10** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.15-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: **8.00pm** Weatherman Walking **8.30-9.00** Private ADHD Clinics Exposed: Panorama. *See Viewing Guide*

ITV1 Wales
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm-11.40** Sharp End

STV
As ITV1 except: **10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe: The Real Story. Documentary about John Darwin, who faked his death in a canoeing accident (r) (AD) **12.00-3.00am** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05** Night Vision

UTV
As ITV1 except: **6.25pm-6.30** Party Election Broadcast. By Sinn Féin **10.45-11.40** View from Stormont. Political developments

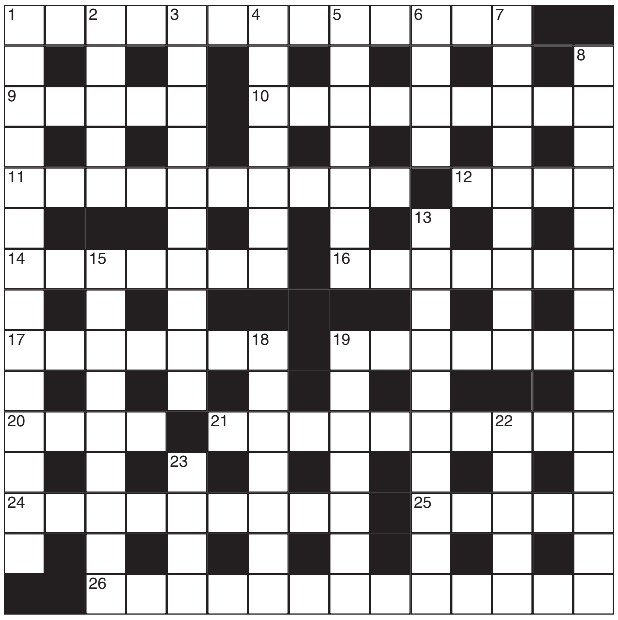
BBC Scotland
2.00pm Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) **2.30** Sign Zone: Landward (r) **3.00-4.00** Sign Zone: Inside the Zoo (r) (AD) **7.00** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights **7.45** Sportscene Goals+ **8.00** Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch (r) (AD) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City (AD) **10.30** Designing the Hebrides (AD) **11.00** Jules and Greg's Wild Swim (r) **11.30-12.00** Best of Chewin' the Fat (r)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Treubh an Tuathanais (Big Barn Farm) (r) **5.15** Su Pic (Peek Zoo) (r) **5.25** AH-AH/No-No **5.35** Pip & Posy **5.40** Meaban is Moo **5.50** Piseag & Cuilean/Kit & Pup (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Port Pàipeir (r) **6.15** A' Chuil (r) **6.20** Bogaisean is Gumbalan/Bottersnikes and Gumbles **6.35** Na Dana-thursan aig Tintin/The Adventures of Tintin (r) **7.00** An t-Eilean (From Skye with Love) (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là (News) **8.30** Gàrradh Phàdruig (r) **9.00** Trusadh (Compelling Stories) (r) **10.00** Cuirm@Celtic (r) **10.30** Gaisgich sna Glinn (r) **11.30** Seòid a' Chidsin — The Kitchen Coves (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Blociau Rhif (r) **6.05** Halibalw (r) **6.15** Twt (r) **6.30** Da 'Di Dona (r) **6.40** Jen a Jim Pob Dim (r) **6.55** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **7.05** Tomos a'i Ffrindau **7.20** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **7.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **7.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **8.00** Bing (r) **8.10** Cymylaubychain (r) **8.20** Stiw (r) **8.35** Nico Nôg (r) **8.45** Fferm Fach (r) **9.00** Timpo (r) **9.10** Cei Bach (r) **9.25** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **9.35** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **9.45** Y Diwrnod Mawr (r) **10.00** Blociau Rhif (r) **10.05** Halibalw (r) **10.15** Twt (r) **10.30** Da 'Di Dona (r) **10.40** Jen a Jim Pob Dim (r) **10.55** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **11.05** Tomos a'i Ffrindau (r) **11.20** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **11.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **11.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Glannau Cymru o'r Awyr (r) **1.30** Sain Ffagan (r) (AD) **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News; Weather **3.05** Ffit Cymru (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Timpo (r) **4.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindau (r) **4.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **4.30** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **4.45** Sigldigwt (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Angelo am Byth (r) **5.10** Cath-Od (r) **5.20** Chwarter Call (r) **5.35** Lego DREAMZzz **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Pobol y Penwythnos (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd (r) (AD) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Cymry ar Gynfas **8.25** Garddio a Mwy **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Ffermio **9.30** Ralïo+ **10.00** Dan Do (r) **10.30-11.35** Jason Mohammad: Stadiymau'r Byd (r)

MindGames

General Knowledge Crossword No 181



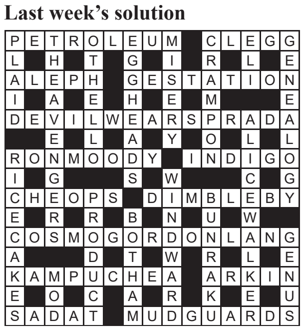
Across

1 Hollywood director who played himself in *Sunset Boulevard* (5,1,7)
9 Fruit whose juice is used to make a sidecar cocktail (5)
10 Felt tip creating a thick line of ink (6,3)
11 Kitchen utensil often wielded by Andy Capp's wife, Flo (7,3)
12 Rodent with water, bank and field species (4)
14 Conveyance traditionally pulled by huskies (7)
16 Island upon which Cristiano Ronaldo was born (7)
17 Fruits yielded by plants in the genus Musa (7)
19 Evergreen shrub producing tight clusters of red or white berries (7)
20 Large wide-mouthed jug (4)
21 Entertainment apparently featuring trained insects (4,6)
24 Three-wheeled vehicle propelled by the wind (4,5)
25 Margaret of ---, queen consort of Henry VI (5)
26 Anthemic 1991 No 1 hit for Chesney Hawkes (3,3,3,4)

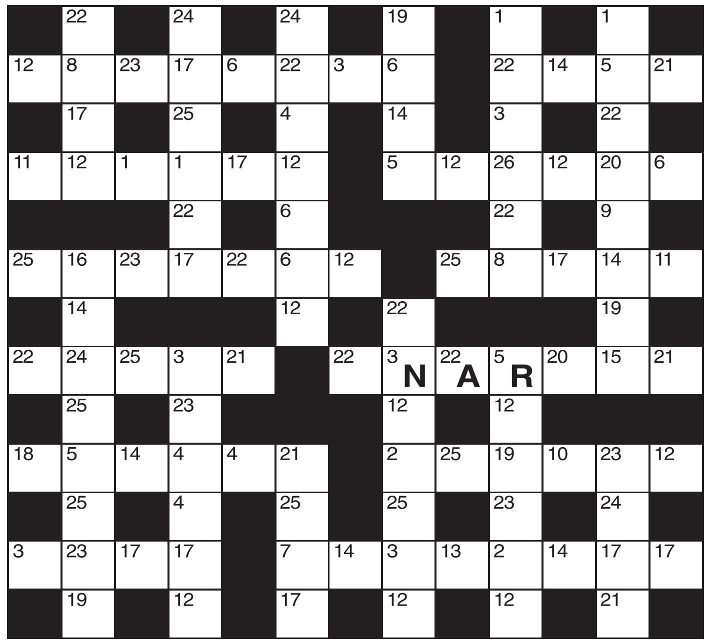
Down

1 Black-and-yellow pest of potatoes (8,6)
2 Old World cousin of the llama and alpaca (5)
3 Area of New York that includes the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens (4,6)
4 Offspring of a deity and a mortal in mythology (7)
5 Political theory associated with the thinkers CLR James and Terry Eagleton (7)
6 Staffordshire town between Stoke-on-Trent and Buxton (4)
7 Tuba-like instrument of tenor pitch (9)
8 London-born actress who starred as an amateur sleuth in *Murder, She Wrote* (6,8)
13 Leader of the Labour Party from 2010 to 2015 (2,8)
15 Brittle spiced biscuit (6,3)
18 Element widely used to make transistors and microchips (7)
19 Authoritive work of sacred scripture in Hinduism (7)
22 Dialect of French spoken in southern Louisiana (5)
23 Group of eight bits, typically, in information technology (4)

Last week's solution

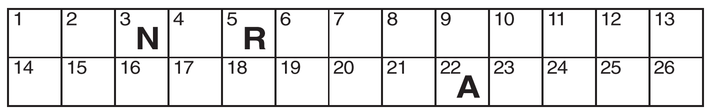


Codeword No 4901



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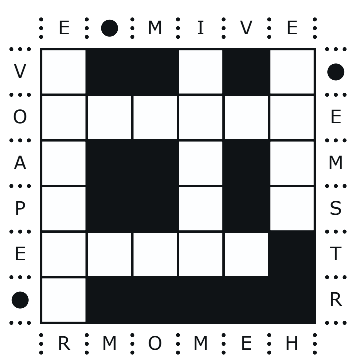
~~A~~ B C D E F G H I J K L M ~~N~~ O P Q ~~R~~ S T U V W X Y Z

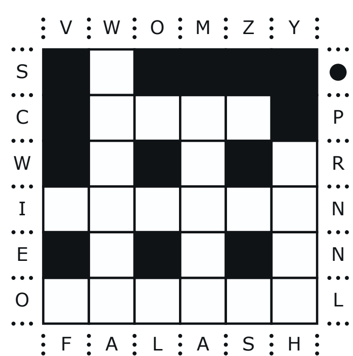


Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. The letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Saturday's solution, right*

Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

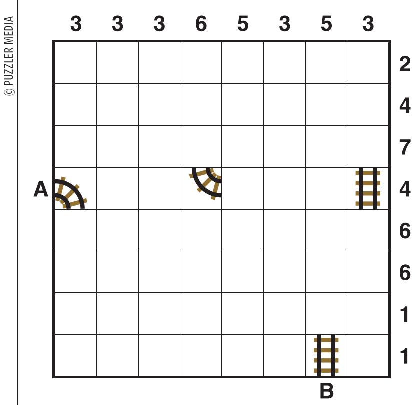
Lexica No 6871 No 6872





Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 1937



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Shoots game (5)

_ _ _ _ _

2 Consider carefully method announced (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Help in class is terrific (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Ignore foggy district (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

5 View of expert opposite (4,2,4)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

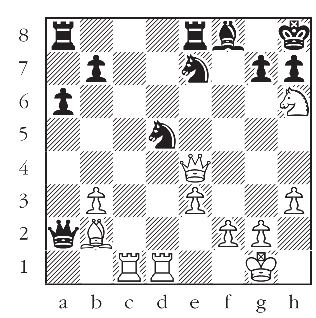
A	A	A	A	C	C	D	E
E	E	E	F	F	G	G	H
I	I	I	N	O	O	R	R
S	S	S	S	T	T	T	W

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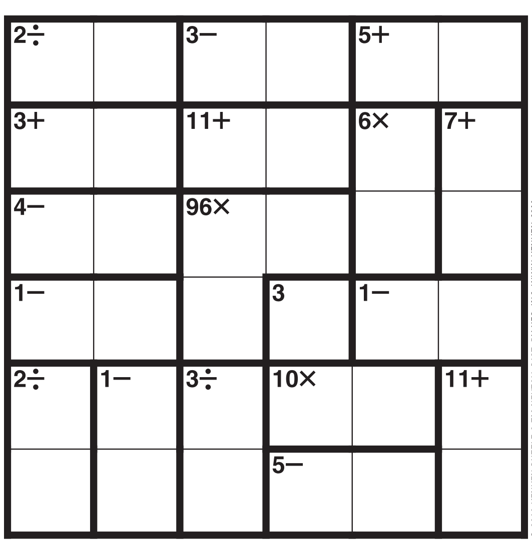
Winning Move



White to play. This position is from Wei Yi-Fiorito, Titled Tuesday, chess.com 2023.

Although White is a piece down, the black kingside feels very exposed. White's bishop and knight are very threatening and the black queen has gone walkabout. How can White finish off?

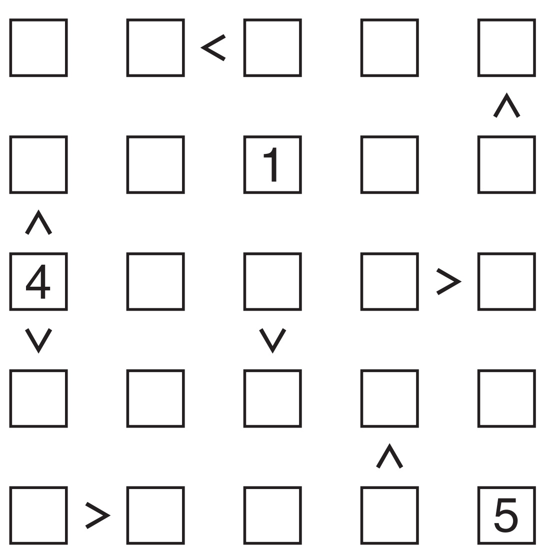
KenKen Easy No 5893



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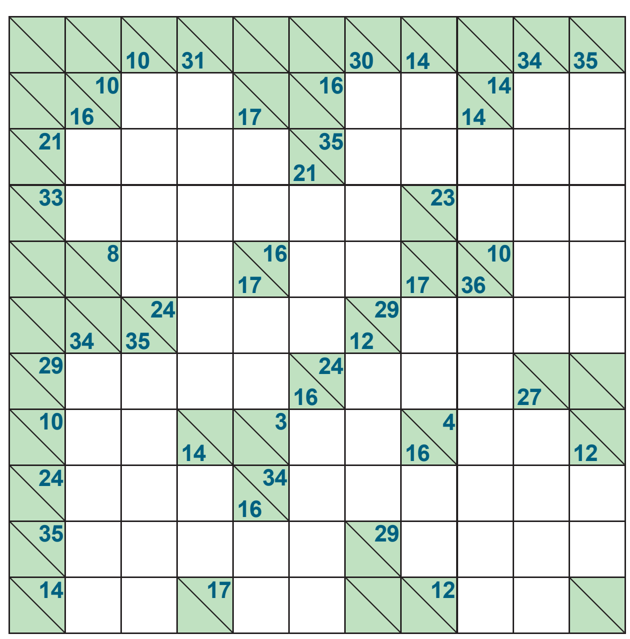
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4476



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 3435

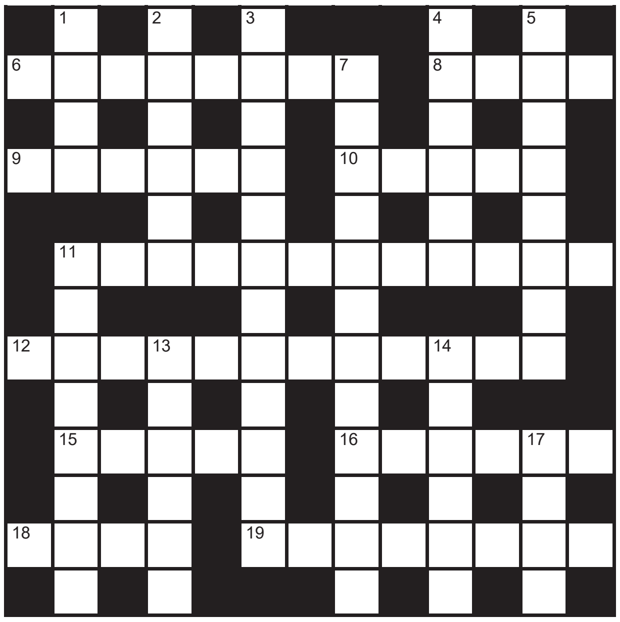


Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

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MindGames

times2 Crossword No 9217



Across
6 Bedspread (8)
8 Slightly open (4)
9 One concerned with trivial points of detail (6)
10 Located away from the edge (5)
11 Sophisticated discernment (12)
12 Gratitude (12)
15 Thrust oneself suddenly forwards (5)
16 Politely ask (to attend) (6)
18 Cosy (4)
19 Lower jawbone (8)

Down
1 Tedious person; drill (4)
2 French city home to a famed motor-racing circuit (2,4)
3 Rich dairy product (7,5)
4 Artillery weapon (6)
5 Body of troops guarding a town (8)
7 Troubles, adversity (12)
11 Overthrowing, deposing (8)
13 Go back on a promise or deal (6)
14 To no avail (2,4)
17 Road charge (4)

Solution to Crossword 9216



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

The 4th European Winter Games in Tignes went off with a bang three weeks ago (yes, very late winter). This was the very first board out of the blocks.

West led the king of spades v 4♥ doubled (no lead works better). Declarer won dummy's ace and led a heart to the king. Judging from East's penalty double that he held the three remaining hearts (all winners), declarer abandoned hearts.

At trick three, declarer ruffed a club. He then crossed to the ace of diamonds and ruffed a second club. He cashed the king-queen of diamonds discarding two more clubs, and, in this position, led the jack of diamonds.

North: ♠ 6 ♥ Q107 ♦ J5 (♦ J led) ♣ -
West: ♠ QJ107 ♥ - ♦ 10 ♣ A
East: ♠ - ♥ AJ9 ♦ - ♣ KQJ
South: ♠ 9843 ♥ 6 ♦ - ♣ 10

If East ruffed (with the nine), declarer would discard his last club. East would then be end-played; if he cashed the ace of hearts, he would sacrifice his third natural trump trick; if he led a club, declarer could ruff in his hand and shed dummy's spade.

East chose to discard on that jack of diamonds, declarer throwing his last club (he didn't have to). Declarer then led the last diamond. East discarded again (ruffing no better for the defence).

With the first nine tricks in the bag and dummy now down to ♥Q107 and a spade, declarer chose to exit with the spade (a heart would have been fine too). West won and led another spade. East overruffed dummy's seven with the nine but, at trick 12, had to lead from ♥AJ round to dummy's ♥Q10. Ten tricks and doubled game made. Yes, I doubt he'd have made it undoubled.

Okay, I'll come clean: I swapped the eight and two of hearts. Actually, East's hearts were ♥AJ92 and dummy's were ♥Q108753. Declarer could also make 4♥ doubled by leading dummy's ten (or, inferiorly, leading low to his six) and so restricting East to two tricks.

Dealer: West, Vulnerability: Neither

Teams

North: ♠ A6 ♥ Q107532 ♦ KQJ52 ♣ -
West: ♠ KQJ107 ♥ 4 ♦ 10984 ♣ A64
East: ♠ 5 ♥ AJ98 ♦ 763 ♣ KQJ52
South: ♠ 98432 ♥ K6 ♦ A ♣ 109873

S	W	N	E
	1♠ (1)	2♠ (2)	Pass(3)
3♥ (4)	Pass	4♥	Dbl
End			

(1) Classic modern light opener.
(2) Michaels, showing (at least) five-five in hearts and a minor.
(3) Lurking.
(4) It's surely 98 per cent likely partner has the reds.

Contract: 4♥ Dbled, Opening Lead: ♠ K

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

EASY: 3 → CUBE IT → + 54 → ÷ 9 → – 5 → x 23 → ½ OF IT → + 31 → ÷ 7 → SQUARE IT → ANSWER

MEDIUM: 220 → +¾ OF IT → ÷ 5 → x 7 → + 176 → ⅘ OF IT → – 384 → x 9 → + 883 → ÷ 25 → ANSWER

HARDER: 294 → ÷ 21 → CUBE IT → – 968 → ⅔ OF IT → TREBLE IT → – 527 → ÷ 55 → + ⅘ OF IT → ÷ 9 → ANSWER

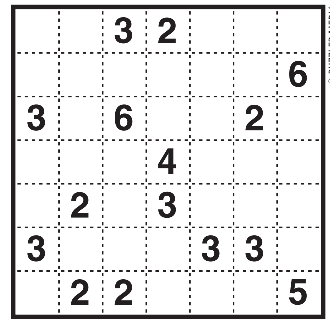
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 15 words, average; 20, good; 23, very good; 27, excellent

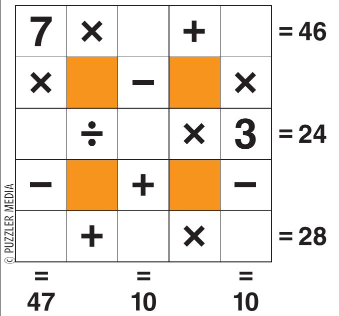
Saturday's answers
bedel, belie, bewilder, **bewildered**, bile, birl, bleed, bleeder, bridle, dele, deli, diel, dreidel, dreidl, edible, elder, elide, elided, idle, idler, leer, lewd, lied, lwei, rebel, reddle, reel, riddle, riel, rile, weld, welder, widdle, wield, wielder, wild, wilder, wile

Cell Blocks No 4784



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

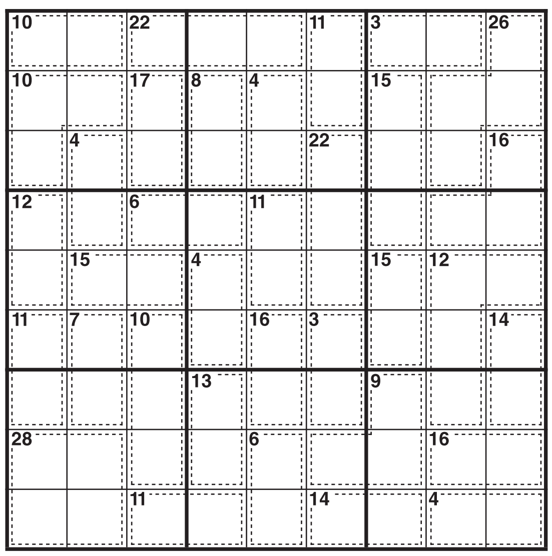
Set Square No 3438



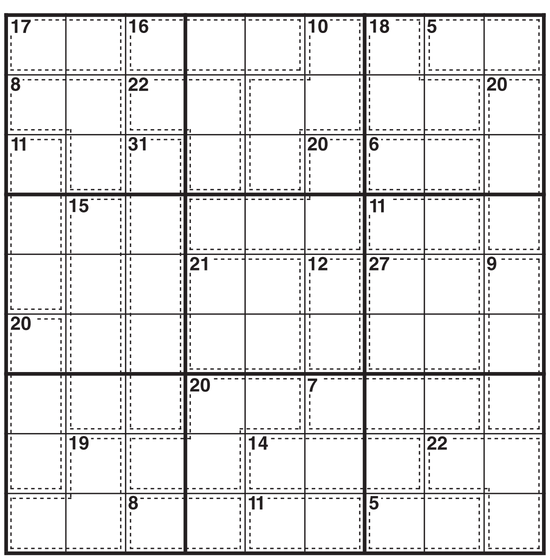
Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Killer Gentle No 8875



Killer Tricky No 8876

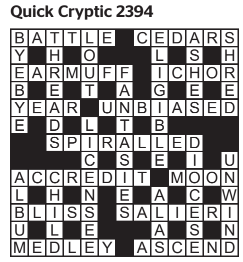


As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Solutions

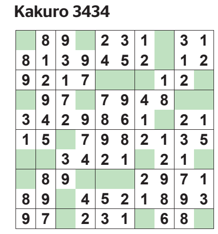
Quick Cryptic 2394



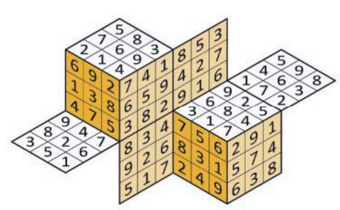
Codeword 4900



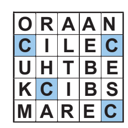
Kakuro 3434



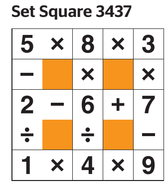
Tredoku 1785



Square Routes 218



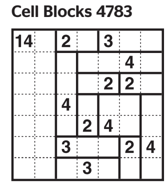
Set Square 3437



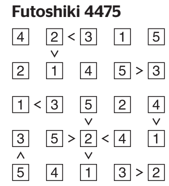
Lexica 6869



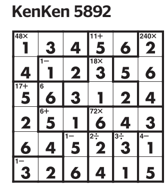
Cell Blocks 4783



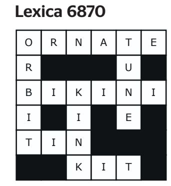
Futoshiki 4475



KenKen 5892



Lexica 6870



Sudoku 14,040

1	3	7	6	8	9	5	2	4
4	8	5	7	1	2	9	6	3
9	6	2	5	4	3	8	1	7
6	1	8	9	2	4	3	7	5
5	4	9	3	7	1	6	8	2
2	7	3	8	6	5	4	9	1
7	5	6	2	3	8	1	4	9
3	2	4	1	9	6	7	5	8
8	9	1	4	5	7	2	3	6

Killer 8874

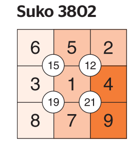
1	8	9	4	3	7	5	6	2
5	6	2	1	8	9	7	4	3
4	7	3	2	6	5	9	1	8
9	4	6	5	7	3	2	8	1
7	3	8	6	2	1	4	5	9
2	5	1	8	9	4	3	7	6
6	2	4	9	5	8	1	3	7
3	9	5	7	1	6	8	2	4
8	1	7	3	4	2	6	9	5

Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Fried
2 Space
3 Freeze
4 Breath
5 Deep-seated

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Darts
2 Weigh
3 Assist
4 Region
5 Face to face

Suko 3802



Brain Trainer
Easy 121
Medium 103
Harder 11

Word watch

Mycella (b) A blue-veined Danish cream cheese (*Collins*)
Grith (a) Sanctuary (*Chambers*)
Ben trovato (a) (Of a story) apt but untrue (*OED*)

Chess — Winning Move

After 1 Qe6! Black is, somewhat surprisingly, powerless to prevent 2 Qg8+! Nxg8 3 Nf7 with a classic smothered mate

Quiz

1 French **2** Horses **3** Trees and shrubs **4** Philips **5** George V **6** Vladimir Lenin **7** RMS Carpathia **8** Cream **9** Lenny Henry **10** Philip Roth **11** International Chamber of Commerce **12** Dune London **13** Gurdeep Loyal **14** Félix Auger-Aliassime **15** Ha'penny Bridge. It opened in 1816

THE TIMES

MindGames

15.05.23

For extra puzzles See page 10

Word watch
David Parfitt

Mycella
a A wine of the French-German border
b A Danish cream cheese
c Long fine strands of pasta

Grith
a Sanctuary
b Determination
c Circumference

Ben trovato
a (Of a story) apt but untrue
b To be performed in a lively manner
c A Mediterranean tuber

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Easy No 14,041

							2	
1	3		9			7		
8	5	2			1	9		
	9	7		5				4
								9
	2	1		7				3
3	4	8			2	1		
2	7		1			8		
							3	

Difficult No 14,042

	3		5		1		6	
4								2
	8		1	7	9		3	
5			6		3			8
6								5
	9		2		8		7	
	7	4	9		6	2	1	

Fiendish No 14,043

			1			2		
		5	3		9		7	
	7			5				9
3				6			8	
		7	8		1	4		
				2			5	3
5				1			2	
6						7		
	4	1			2			

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 Since 1974, what has been the only official language in the Canadian province of Quebec?

2 Manège is the art of training and riding which animals?

3 An arborist is a specialist in the care and maintenance of which plants?

4 Which Dutch technology company produces OneBlade, a device for styling facial hair?

5 The dish jubilee chicken was created in 1935 for the Silver Jubilee of which king?

6 Which leader of the Soviet Union wrote the book *The State and Revolution* in 1917?

CHRIS HEPBURN/GETTY IMAGES


15

7 Built in Wallsend, which Cunard steamship rescued 706 survivors from Titanic's lifeboats?

8 *I Feel Free* (1966) and *White Room* (1969) are singles by which British rock trio?

9 A one-man show about the Windrush scandal, *August in England* is which comedian's playwriting debut?

10 *The Marvelous Mrs Maisel's* final season reveals that Midge almost married which real-life US novelist?

11 Which US lobbying group is the world's largest business organisation?

12 Which British shoe manufacturer and retailer was founded in 1992 by Daniel Rubin?

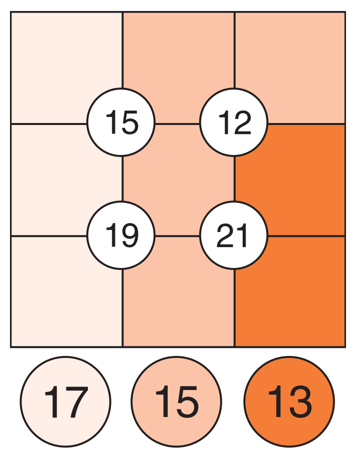
13 *Mother Tongue: Flavours of a Second Generation* (2023) is which British food writer's debut book?

14 Which Montreal-born tennis player was voted the Canadian Press male athlete of the year for 2022?

15 Sharing its name with an old coin, which pedestrian bridge on the Liffey is pictured?

Answers on page 15

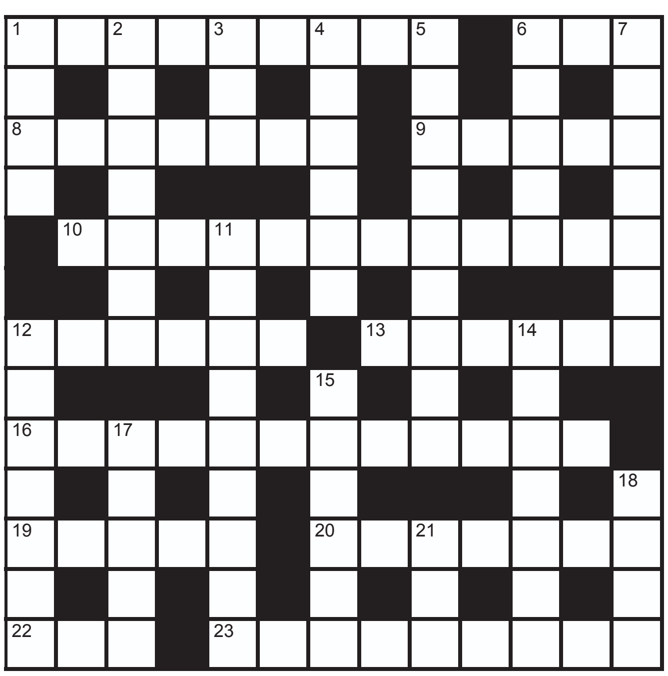
Suko
No 3802



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2395 by Jalna



Across
1 Organise travels around quiet country (9)
6 Trade union beginning to manipulate corporation (3)
8 Parrot — red in colour — living primarily in Los Angeles (7)
9 Arcadian God welcomes each hymn of praise (5)
10 It provides cool surroundings for rare tiger, possibly (12)
12 Pick out a collection of books with nice cover (6)
13 Flashy equipment given to school (6)
16 Wife has terrible cooked snack (5,7)
19 Mistake admitted by retiring juror, regrettably (5)
20 Salesperson back clutching the ultimate dressing! (7)
22 Festival taking place in June, ideally (3)
23 The planes deployed as jumbos? (9)

Friday's solution on page 15

Down
1 Father is upset and extremely rude (4)
2 Developing plan to finish mountain climb (7)
3 From time to time, lad idly creates trouble (3)
4 Fruit closer to pomelo variety (6)
5 Old forward is with energy and skill (9)
6 Social media post is pretty fanatical at heart (5)
7 Leader concerned with blocking demonstration (7)
11 People run in socks? You can bet on it! (9)
12 Two presents unable to be found? (7)
14 Cheese from list collected by young boy (7)
15 Small, adequate specimen (6)
17 City once surrounded by light was attractive (5)
18 Flower is seen around Rhode Island (4)
21 Remains quiet after arguing at first (3) *

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